

# EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 14, 2009*

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, having been absent from the House for the week of October 5th, I would have voted the following way:

Conference Report to H.R. 2997—"nay."

Conference Report to H.R. 2647—"nay."

## CONGRATULATING THE VILLAGE OF ALEXANDER, NEW YORK, ON ITS 175TH ANNIVERSARY

### HON. CHRISTOPHER JOHN LEE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 14, 2009*

Mr. LEE of New York. Madam Speaker, it is with great pride that I commemorate the 175th anniversary of the Village of Alexander, New York, a beautiful community home to nearly 500 Genesee County residents.

Incorporated in 1834, the Village of Alexander is named after Alexander Rhea, who purchased the first land from his employer, the Holland Land Company, in 1802.

Alexander's history is closely tied to the Tonawanda Creek, which flows northeasterly through the town. The lands along the creek attracted numerous settlers, and Alexander continued to grow throughout the early 1800s and quickly became one of the most populous towns in Genesee County. By 1812, more than 100 families had taken up land in the town.

A tavern, tannery, blacksmith shop, general store, and a library were all soon built. A literary society was then formed out of the library, and after residents were able to raise \$6,000, the Alexander Classical School and later the Genesee and Wyoming Seminary were formed, leading to some of the first secondary education institutions in Genesee County.

Rich in history and community pride, the Village of Alexander and its residents are a true asset to Western New York.

Madam Speaker, in recognition of its 175th Anniversary, I ask this Honorable Body to join me in commemorating the Village of Alexander, New York.

## HONORING SPECIALIST SAM D. MERONEY

### HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 14, 2009*

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Specialist Sam D.

Meroney who has exemplified the finest qualities of leadership and citizenship by proudly serving our country in the United States Army. Specialist Meroney is currently stationed at Fort Carson, Colorado, and is most deserving of this special recognition as he continues to fight to protect the United States of America.

Specialist Meroney recently participated in the U.S. Army Military Police Challenge at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri. From September 16–18, 2009, Specialist Meroney and his two compatriots competed in thirteen spirited events. Of the nation's top 34 three-man teams participating, Specialist Meroney and his team were able to meet the significant challenges and succeed in winning the overall competition. In addition to this achievement, his team placed first in two individual events. Not only has Specialist Meroney earned the respect of his family, peers, and community, he has also made both the state of Missouri and the United States of America proud.

Madam Speaker, I strongly urge all Members of Congress to join me in commending Specialist Sam D. Meroney for his accomplishments in the United States Army and for his efforts put forth in defense of this nation.

## RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE INDIA PLAZA

### HON. HARRY E. MITCHELL

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 14, 2009*

Mr. MITCHELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the many contributions of the India Plaza to the city of Tempe. The India Plaza has been a strong and distinctive feature in the Tempe community since 2003. The plaza serves as a window into the Indian culture, showcasing India's food, clothing, music and hospitality.

Since its beginnings, the plaza has continuously thrived. Its business owners and employees have partnered with local charities and been active in the Tempe Chamber of Commerce. Those same merchants also worked to create a safer environment by promoting the addition of crosswalk and signal access near the plaza.

I am truly privileged to represent such a strong cultural fixture in our district and will continue to treasure the plaza's addition to Tempe's diversity. As many in the Indian community decorate their homes with lights, share sweets and start the new financial year in celebration of Diwali, I am honored to share in their celebration. Again, I am proud to serve the India Plaza and am eager to see its continued success and growth.

Therefore, I urge you Madam Speaker, in rising to congratulate the India Plaza on its partnerships and accomplishments within the community of Tempe, Arizona.

## CONGRATULATING THE ALDINE SCHOOL DISTRICT FOR WINNING THE BROAD PRIZE FOR URBAN EDUCATION

SPEECH OF

### HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 13, 2009*

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 791, congratulating the Aldine Independent School District in Harris County, Texas, on winning the 2009 Broad Prize for Urban Education. I am proud to support this resolution because the Broad Prize for Urban Education reflects the hard work and outstanding effort that the Aldine Independent School District, Aldine ISD, has exerted to improve overall performance and reduce achievement gaps among low-income and minority students.

The honor bestowed upon Aldine ISD is a beacon of hope for improving public education in Texas and the United States. With over 61,000 students enrolled, Aldine ISD is one of the largest local education agencies in my congressional district and nearly 80 percent of those students qualify for free and reduced lunches. Providing a quality education to such a large number of students, especially students with diverse socioeconomic backgrounds, poses challenges for school districts across the United States.

Aldine ISD's receipt of the Broad Prize for Urban Education is a testament to the hard work of parents, teachers, and students as well as the steady leadership of the district administration. Aldine ISD uses a district-wide plan focused on student achievement, student behavior, and community relations. The district administration uses that district-wide plan to ensure that its schools provide a supportive, safe, and—most importantly—effective learning environment. The district has succeeded in communicating clear expectations of academic excellence to teachers and increasing school administrators' oversight of student success.

Aldine ISD's model has produced incredible results. The school district regularly ranks as one of the top performers of all districts in the State of Texas. Studies by Texas A&M University and the University of Texas—Pan American showed that Aldine ISD ranks as one of the best school districts for educating African-American and Hispanic students in Texas. In 2008, African-American students in Aldine ISD achieved higher proficiency rates in math at all school levels and in reading at the middle and high school levels than their counterparts across the State. In 2008, Hispanic and low-income students in Aldine ISD performed the best in State reading and math assessments relative to similar Texas school districts.

A crucial product of Aldine ISD's success is the narrowing of achievement gaps. Math achievement gaps at all income levels were among the smallest in the State and between

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

2005 and 2008 Aldine ISD narrowed the highest percentage of African-American achievement gaps. Not only is Aldine ISD closing the achievement gap but also it is preparing increasing numbers of students for higher education. From 2005 to 2008 African-American and Hispanic student participation in SAT and Advanced Placement rose.

By these measurements, Aldine ISD clearly deserves the Broad Prize for Urban Education. The award is given to large urban school districts that show solid school achievement and demonstrate distinct gains made in narrowing achievement gaps. I am proud of the hard work that Aldine ISD has done to earn this award and I am thankful to the Eli and Edythe Broad Foundation for recognizing their efforts.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 14, 2009*

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California. Madam Speaker, unfortunately, I was unable to be present in the Capitol for three votes on Tuesday, October 13, 2009.

However, had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on H.R. 3689, providing for an extension of the legislative authority of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, Inc. to establish a Vietnam Veterans Memorial visitor center; "yea" on H.R. 3476, reauthorizing the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area Citizen Advisory Commission; and "yea" on H. Res. 659, congratulating Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc. on 98 years of serving local communities and enriching the lives of collegiate men throughout the Nation.

#### MEDIA GIVE TALE OF TWO PROTESTS

### HON. LAMAR SMITH

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 14, 2009*

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Madam Speaker, in Pittsburgh and Washington, DC, the national media have given us a tale of two protests.

The media's coverage of the conservative September 12 protests intentionally tried to paint a negative picture of the protestors, even though there were no arrests or acts of violence.

The Washington Post described the 9/12 protests as an outpouring of a "spectrum of conservative anger."

The New York Times used words like "angry" and "profane" to describe the protests.

Fast forward to the radical-left G-20 protests in Pittsburgh recently.

The New York Times headline called the protests a "Peaceful March."

CNN described the protests as "more peaceful, less confrontational," even though there were dozens of arrests and businesses damaged.

The national media should give fair coverage to protests on both sides, instead of demonizing conservatives and praising radical liberals.

REMEMBERING NAVY SEAL, SO2,  
RYAN JOB

### HON. HARRY E. MITCHELL

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 14, 2009*

Mr. MITCHELL. Madam Speaker, it is with great remorse that I rise today to remember the life of Navy Seal, SO2, Ryan Job. Ryan joined the Navy in 2002 with the goal of joining the select Navy Special-Operations Force, known as the SEALs. Ryan was eventually deployed to serve in Iraq in 2006. While on patrol in the city of Ramadi, Ryan was wounded in an assault, which resulted in the destruction of one of Ryan's eyes and severing the optic nerves of the other. This attack left Ryan entirely blind. After spending time in multiple military hospitals across the country, Ryan's stamina and determination allowed him to make a full recovery, and in 2007, he and his wife Kelly moved to my district and settled in North Scottsdale. There, he was able to complete his business degree, and landed a job with General Dynamics.

Ryan was able to make this smooth transition back to a civilian life with the help of the non-profit Sentinels of Freedom Scholarship Foundation. This incredible organization is devoted to providing aid and support to injured men and women of the U.S. armed forces to help them realize their goals of returning back to their homes and becoming productive and active members of society. The Sentinels of Freedom helped Ryan to locate the condo he and his wife chose to live in, found him the job at General Dynamics, and also enrolled him in online classes to allow Ryan to finish his degree. In return, Ryan became a spokesman for the organization and an advocate for veterans, as he wanted to make sure that his fellow men and women in uniform would be able to make the same transition as he did.

On September 24, 2009, Ryan underwent another surgery. However, this time, there were complications, and in an absolutely heart-breaking turn of events, our brave and inspiring friend Ryan Job passed away.

Madam Speaker, I hope that you will join me in remembering and celebrating the life of Ryan Job. My thoughts are with Ryan's family and loved ones during this difficult time. Ryan is a hero to us all. He will be dearly missed, but he will never be forgotten.

#### PROCLAIMING CASIMIR PULASKI TO BE AN HONORARY CITIZEN OF THE UNITED STATES POST- HUMOUSLY

SPEECH OF

### HON. JACK KINGSTON

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 7, 2009*

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.J. Res. 26 to honor General Casimir Pulaski, a Polish born National hero, as an honorary American citizen.

Casimir Pulaski received designations ranging from "Soldier of Liberty" to "The Father of the American Cavalry" for his honorable service of fighting for freedom on two continents. In the United States, streets, counties,

squares, and even an American submarine bare his name. Both the beginning and end of his noble life are cloaked with mystery—competing stories exist about his birth and death; however, his actions of defending freedom in his homeland of Poland as well as America are renowned.

Casimir Pulaski was born to a family of Polish nobility either on March 4 or 6, 1745, 1746 or 1747 in Winiary, Warsaw, or Waka on the Pilica, Poland. Pulaski's distant relatives give his birth date as March 4, 1747 in Winiary, Poland; however, scrupulous biographical notes of the Pulaski family history state that Casimir was born on March 4, 1746, but gives no mention of the place. On the other hand, baptismal records show March 4, 1745 as the date of birth, connecting his given name to his birth on the feastday of St. Casimir. The date of Casimir's actual baptism was recorded as March 6, 1745 in Warsaw on Nowy Swiat Street. Then again, the National Park Service records his birth date as March 4, 1747 in Waka on the Pilica, Poland.

Regardless of his curious beginning, historians agree that Casimir began his military career at the age of fifteen when young Pulaski joined his father and other members of the Polish nobility in opposing the Russian and Prussian interference in Polish affairs.

After being banished to Paris, Pulaski met Benjamin Franklin who urged him to support the colonies in the American Revolution. Pulaski was impressed with the ideals of a new nation struggling to be free and volunteered his services. Franklin wrote to George Washington describing Pulaski as "an officer renowned throughout Europe for the courage and bravery he displayed in defense of his country's freedom."

In 1777, Pulaski arrived in Philadelphia where he met General Washington, the Commander-in-Chief of the Continental Army. After coming to the aid of Washington's forces and distinguishing himself as a talented military tactician, Pulaski was sent south to assist American colonial forces. Georgia became the only American colony to be re-conquered by the British on December 29, 1778, and Pulaski was sent to assist Comte Jean Baptiste Hector d'Estaing and Benjamin Lincoln regain control of Savannah from the British who had amassed about 3,000 defenders.

The areas surrounding Savannah created a difficult environment for the French and American forces. The left and right sides of Savannah are marshlands which created tough obstacles through which to advance. In the front of the city, a cleared plain of small rolling hills made it impossible for a group of soldiers to advance without being seen from the redoubts that encircled the city. The Siege of Savannah became one of the bloodiest battles of the Revolutionary War, and a military failure of colonists with more than 1,000 of the attacking forces killed. In 2005, archaeologists with Coastal Heritage Society discovered the long-lost Spring Hill Redoubt. This unearthed the site of the bloodiest fighting of the siege and scene of the mortal wounding of Brigadier General Casimir Pulaski.

While historians can agree that Pulaski commanded the French and American cavalry during the Siege of Savannah and sustained mortal wounds during fighting from grapeshot on October 9, 1779, consensus ends there.

Two divergent tales of his death continue today—one from a Georgia family, another

from two of Pulaski's officers. The first has injured Pulaski being sent to Charleston aboard the Wasp, but passing on October 15 and taken to Greenwich Plantation, Georgia for burial. In 1854, bones were discovered in an unmarked grave at the former family plantation of William P. Bowen. Bowen said his grandmother and aunt told him the grave was Pulaski's. The bones were then entombed inside the marble cornerstone of the Pulaski Monument in Savannah. Restoration of the monument in 1996 led to another exhumation by Chatham County Coroner James C. Metts Jr. After eight years of attempts, investigators failed to extract a complete DNA sequence to compare with a living Pulaski descendant in Poland. A draft report by Metts' team concluded "the mystery remains unsolved." It also states that "strong circumstantial evidence does suggest that the remains are Casimir Pulaski."

However, historical accounts from two officers who served under Pulaski tell a different story. They report that General Pulaski was wounded on October 9, 1776, but that he died two days later on October 11 aboard the Wasp on route to Charleston. The two officers report that Pulaski was then buried at sea near the mouth of the Savannah River where it flows into the Atlantic Ocean.

Even with conflicting details of his birth and death, General Pulaski's military history is commemorated in Savannah by multiple tributes including Fort Pulaski, Pulaski Elementary, Pulaski Square, and Pulaski National Monument. I am privileged to commend General Pulaski and his admirable service to our Nation and support his honorary citizenship.

HONORING JESSE RAYMOND  
NELSON

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 14, 2009

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Jesse Raymond Nelson, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1179, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Jesse has been very active with his troop participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Jesse has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Jesse Raymond Nelson for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

IRAN SANCTIONS ENABLING ACT  
OF 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 13, 2009

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise in support of H.R. 1327, the "Iran

Sanctions Enabling Act of 2009." This legislation, if enacted, will enhance U.S. capacity to further isolate Iran and pressure the government to abandon its military nuclear program.

The recent discovery of a secret enrichment facility at Qom serves as a clear reminder that Iran continues to flagrantly disregard international non-proliferation agreements, and poses a direct and dangerous threat to the peace and security not only in the Middle East, but also around the world.

Unfortunately, the concealment of the facility at Qom is only the most recent in a long line of deplorable and illegal behavior by the Iranian government. From seeking to acquire nuclear weapons and evade IAEA inspectors, to continuing to threaten Israel and opposing the Middle East peace process, to supporting international terrorism, to its deplorable human rights record—specifically surrounding the recent elections—the government of Iran has consistently acted in a reprehensible and dangerous manner.

The only effective way to achieve lasting peace and prosperity in the region, along with bringing about reforms in Iran's polity, is to assist the Iranian people in their quest to achieve political, social, and religious liberty. Every government can be judged with the way in which it treats its ethnic and religious minorities, and the current Iranian government gets a failing grade for its treatment of its many and diverse minorities.

While the government's actions in the international community deserve our condemnation, we must distinguish between Iranian people and their government. This fall, I was optimistic that the elections in Iran would serve as a catalyst for change, but given the absence of fair and free elections, coupled with the government's poor record for transparency and accountability, I believe that the democratic voices in Iran need our help to achieve change.

The results of the recent election clearly showed that there was no chance for Iranian citizens to participate in Democracy. On June 12, 2009, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad was ostensibly re-elected to his second term as President, as a result of the tenth Presidential elections in Iran, held and calculated on June 13, 2009. Subject to official results released by Iran's election headquarters, out of a total of 39,165,191 ballots cast in the Presidential election, Ahmadinejad allegedly won 24,527,516 votes, which accounts for approximately 62.6 percent of the votes, while his opponent and former Prime Minister of Iran Mir-Hossein Mousavi purportedly secured only 13,216,411 (37.4%) of the votes. Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei announced that he envisions Ahmadinejad as president in the next five years, a comment interpreted as indicating support for Ahmadinejad's reelection, and so it happened exactly that way.

In the aftermath of an election crisis we must not forget that Iran is marching ever closer to the development of a nuclear weapon, as they continue the pursuit of enriching uranium. Iran's nuclear program, coupled with its continued military assistance to armed groups in Iraq, Afghanistan, the Palestinian group Hamas, and to the Lebanese Hezbollah has been the basis for President Obama's characterization of Iran as a "profound threat to U.S. national security interests."

Yet the last Administration's approach of isolationism failed to stop or even slow the es-

calation of Iran's nuclear development. The recent discovery of a secret enrichment facility at Qom serves as a clear reminder that Iran continues to flagrantly disregard international non-proliferation agreements, and poses a direct and dangerous threat to the peace and security in the Middle East, and around the world.

In that vein we do not want to ostracize Iran, as has been done in the past. This Administration indicated that if Iran refuses to come to the "nuclear bargaining table" by late September 2009, sanctions will resume. This deadline passed, and Iran has not changed. Consequently, it is time that we move to enable effective sanctions to remind Iran that we remain serious in our demands. This bill does not move the U.S. past the point of no return in regards to sanctions, but, it sends a clear message to Iran while enabling more effective sanctions in the future.

Mr. Speaker, although Iran has committed heinous human rights violations, and continues to threaten its neighbors, I do not believe that it is productive to punish Iran for their past delinquencies. Instead, we should use our threats and sanctions to persuade the government of Iran to change its behavior by holding free and fair elections, allowing dissent, and finally ending its military nuclear program. I hope that, one day in the near future, we will lift these sanctions; but, until reforms are implemented, we must remain vigilant in pressuring Iran.

Last year, this body passed H.R. 7112—The Comprehensive Iran Sanction Act, but the Senate failed to follow suit. It is my hope that, this time, our colleagues in the Senate realize how much is at stake and act quickly to pass this legislation.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I urge the passage of this legislation.

HONORING VIRGINIA HOUSE  
SPEAKER WILLIAM J. HOWELL  
FOR RECEIVING THE  
CARRINGTON WILLIAMS PRESER-  
VATION AWARD

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 14, 2009

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Virginia House Speaker William J. Howell for receiving the Carrington Williams Preservation Award. The Carrington Williams Preservation Award is presented by the Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation to an individual whose accomplishments in furthering the cause of preservation have been noteworthy and will be long-lasting. This year, the Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation selected a Virginian of remarkable accomplishments for the Commonwealth and to the preservationist cause to receive this award.

The award is made in honor of Carrington Williams, whose dedication to preservation, especially Civil War battlefields, is well known. He served as chairman of the predecessor organization to the Civil War Preservation Trust, the Association for Preservation of Civil War Sites. He was chairman of the federal commission that wrote the management plan for the Shenandoah Valley Battlefields National Historic District, and he served as the founding chairman of this organization.

The Honorable William J. Howell is the 54th Speaker of the Virginia House of Delegates, a nearly 400-year old institution and the oldest continuously elected law-making body in the world. First elected a delegate in 1987, he represents the 28th House District which includes parts of Stafford County and the City of Fredericksburg.

In addition to his noteworthy legislative contributions to public education and public safety, the 2007 enactment of his legislation for historic land use changes were supported by statewide and regional funding of roads, railroads, and transit. He has been a strong supporter of restoring the Chesapeake Bay and also led the effort to enact Virginia's national model program for preserving open spaces using free market principles. He has stood firmly with battlefield preservationists in many of their efforts, including those at Slaughter Pen Farm in Fredericksburg, as well as more recently at the Wilderness. And his leadership enabled the General Assembly to appropriate \$5 million in state funding for Civil War battlefield preservation.

Speaker Howell is chairman of the Virginia Sesquicentennial American Civil War Commission that is now preparing to mark the 150th Anniversary in 2011 of Virginia's entry into the Civil War. He has been twice honored by the Civil War Preservation Trust with its State Leadership Award. He was one of the overseers of the recent State Capitol renovations as well as one of the leaders in organizing the commemoration in 2007 of America's 400th Anniversary at Jamestown.

#### HONORING EISENHOWER HIGH SCHOOL

#### HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 14, 2009*

Mr. BACA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Eisenhower High School in Rialto, California, on the occasion of its 50th Anniversary.

The students and alumni of Eisenhower High School will celebrate 50 years of continued academic excellence, October 17, 2009. This anniversary is a milestone for Rialto, California. Throughout the past 50 years, the school has provided an exemplary educational service to its students and has contributed greatly to the community.

Eisenhower first opened its doors in fall of 1959, and since then has achieved success in academics, athletics and community service while providing a high level of education. They have always been a school of inclusion and unity regardless of an individual's background.

Eisenhower High School has been able to maintain an outstanding athletic program for their students, allowing them to participate in activities that promote the values of team work, integrity, and dedication. Their athletic teams have consistently won conference titles in varied sports, including football, basketball, wrestling, and swimming. The boy's basketball team currently holds the State Championship title. With this victory they became the first California Interscholastic Federation State title holders for a school from San Bernardino County.

Pro Football Hall of Famer Ronnie Lott graduated from Eisenhower High School. He

went on to play for the San Francisco 49ers and was named to the NFL's 75th Anniversary team. Among other Eisenhower High School alumni whom have played on the professional level are Brandi Burton, David Lang, Jeff Conine, Darnell Coles, and Craig Newsome. Another distinguished alumnus is Derek Parra, Olympic Speed-Skating gold medalist and 1500 meter world record holder.

Eisenhower High School has also achieved recognition in academics and community service. They have achieved recognition on the state level as well as national recognition. Anita Ware, alumna of Eisenhower, was its first student to be awarded the prestigious Westinghouse Science Award. The school newspaper, the Eagle's Eye, received an award in 1976 for being one of the nation's best student newspapers from the National Scholastic Press Association and Quill & Scroll. Eisenhower High School was also recognized as a National Blue Ribbon and as a California Distinguished School.

Both of my sons graduated from Eisenhower High School. My son Joe Baca, Jr., served in the State Assembly and is now the Mayor Pro Tem for the City of Rialto. Jeremy Baca is an outstanding private consultant.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in honoring Eisenhower High School. Their continuing record of accomplishment is due in no small part to the teaching practices of the faculty who have guided the school through the years.

#### FCC'S HEAVY HAND

#### HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 14, 2009*

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, I submit the following article.

[From the Washington Post, Sept. 28, 2009]

#### THE FCC'S HEAVY HAND

In a speech at the Brookings Institution last week, Federal Communications Commission Chairman Julius Genachowski promised that his agency's plan for regulating Internet service providers (ISPs) will be "fair, transparent, fact-based and data-driven."

That's nice. But Mr. Genachowski failed to convincingly answer the most important question of all: Is this intervention necessary?

Mr. Genachowski claims to have seen "breaks and cracks" in the Internet that threaten to change the "fundamental architecture of openness." He and other proponents of federal involvement cite a handful of cases they say prove that, left to their own devices, ISPs such as Comcast Corp. and AT&T will choke the free flow of information and technology. One example alluded to by the chairman: Comcast's blocking an application by BitTorrent that would allow peer-to-peer video sharing. Yet that conflict was ultimately resolved by the two companies—without FCC intervention—after Comcast's alleged bad behavior was exposed by a blogger.

Mr. Genachowski offered two proposals to combat alleged ISP misconduct. One should be embraced, the other shelved.

Mr. Genachowski is right to insist that ISPs be candid with the agency and the public about network management practices. Such disclosures are necessary. Mr. Genachowski asserted correctly, to "give

consumers the confidence of knowing that they're getting the service they've paid for" and "enable innovators to make their offerings work effectively over the Internet." Transparency should go a long way toward allaying the concerns of those who fear ISP manipulation of markets. It also puts in doubt the need for Mr. Genachowski's second, dubious offering.

Aptly dubbed an "immodest proposal" by the Free State Foundation's Randolph J. May, the FCC would prohibit ISPs from "discriminating against" different applications. Mr. Genachowski explains it this way: ISPs "cannot block or degrade lawful traffic over their networks, or pick winners by favoring some content or applications over others in the connection to subscribers' homes." In short, ISPs, which have poured billions of dollars into building infrastructure, would have little control—if any—over the kinds of information and technology flowing through their pipes.

In a slight concession, Mr. Genachowski said that the commission would consider whether to allow ISPs to offer "managed services in limited circumstances"; this approach could allow ISPs to create a two-track delivery system—one for routine traffic, the other for applications that use exorbitant amounts of bandwidth. But unneeded regulation could still interfere with their ability to manage bandwidth-hogging applications that can hamper service, especially during peak times.

Mr. Genachowski claims that the FCC "will do as much as we need to do, and no more, to ensure that the Internet remains an unfettered platform for competition, creativity and entrepreneurial activity." He will advance this goal by insisting on transparency; he will jeopardize it—and stifle further investments by ISPs—with attempts to micromanage what has been a vibrant and well-functioning marketplace.

#### CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 2647, NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2010

SPEECH OF

#### HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 8, 2009*

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I am proud that H.R. 2647 contains provisions of H.R. 3403, the Supporting Military Families Act, a bill that I introduced in the House earlier this year.

In the 110th Congress, we passed and the President signed into law the first-ever changes to the Family Medical Leave Act, FMLA, permitting "next of kin" of seriously injured and ill servicemembers to take up to twenty-six weeks of unpaid leave to care for these injured and ill servicemembers. In addition, the legislation provides up to twelve weeks of leave to workers when their family servicemembers are about to be deployed overseas to attend to certain "exigencies" relating to deployment, such as arranging for alternate child care or going to a lawyer for a will.

The legislation passed in the 110th Congress was a good start, however, it has some gaps in coverage, which H.R. 2647 addresses. Under these new provisions, a next of kin can take up to twenty-six weeks of unpaid leave to care for a seriously injured or ill veteran, so long as that veteran incurred the injury or illness while on active duty and the injury or illness manifests itself within five years of the

veteran's discharge from active duty. In addition, the twelve weeks of leave for "exigencies" relating to deployment includes not only leave for families of National Guard or Reservists in support of a contingency operation, but also leave for: (1) families of regular active duty servicemembers; and (2) families of those who have been deployed overseas.

The FMLA is intended to help individuals balance their family and work obligations. So far, working people have used FMLA more than 100 million times to care for themselves and their family members. When the Act was first passed in 1993, it was a giant step and, while we need to pass legislation to provide paid leave, FMLA is still of great importance to working families.

Since a majority of military spouses work, they too must balance work and family. They work to put food on the table and support their families. But they face additional challenges because their lives are disrupted by multiple deployments, involving not only active servicemembers but those in the National Guard and Reserves as well.

Over 35,000 servicemembers have been injured—many seriously—in the conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan. These injured warriors need substantial support and care from their families, often for long periods of time, and some permanently.

In addition, veterans of both conflicts are developing serious illnesses and injuries after they are discharged from active service. Brain injuries such as traumatic brain injury and post-traumatic stress syndrome are disabling conditions but often do not materialize until well after servicemembers have been discharged from active duty. A recent study by the Department of Defense estimates that 11 percent of Iraq veterans and 20 percent of Afghanistan veterans suffer from post-traumatic stress syndrome as a result of their service.

No matter where we come down on the merits of these conflicts, we must support families whose loved ones put their lives and their futures on the line for our nation. The provisions of H.R. 2647 will certainly help.

#### HONORING THE SERVICE AND SACRIFICE OF UNITED STATES ARMY STAFF SERGEANT JUSTIN GALLEGOS

##### HON. GABRIELLE GIFFORDS

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 14, 2009*

Ms. GIFFORDS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor United States Army Staff Sergeant Justin T. Gallegos, who was killed in action with seven fellow Soldiers as their remote outpost in mountainous eastern Afghanistan was attacked by insurgents on October 3, 2009. He leaves behind his mother, two sisters, brother and a 5-year-old son.

Born in Tucson, Arizona, Justin graduated from Tucson High School before joining the Army in 2002. Staff Sergeant Gallegos was assigned to Bravo Troop, 3rd Squadron, 61st Cavalry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division.

Justin was on his first deployment to Afghanistan, but he had already completed two previous deployments to Iraq, the first a one-year deployment from November 2005 to 2006

and the other a fifteen-month deployment from March 2007 to May 2008.

Since entering the Army, Justin had earned a reputation for being a good Soldier. Over his career he earned more than a dozen honors including three Purple Hearts, two Army Commendation Medals and two Army Achievement Medals. He also earned the Bronze Star for his actions that day in defending his combat outpost.

On this day, he was deployed to a remote base near the Afghanistan-Pakistan border. As insurgents poured over the hilltop ridge toward his position and the base, Justin and his fellow Soldiers held their ground before the camp was partially overrun and nearly destroyed by rocket and mortar fire. The team held back hundreds of enemy fighters before ultimately succumbing to the overwhelming volume of fire.

These men fought bravely and will not be forgotten.

We remember Staff Sergeant Gallegos and offer our deepest condolences and sincerest prayers to his family. My words cannot effectively convey the feeling of great loss nor can they offer adequate consolation. However, it is my hope that in future days, his family may take some comfort in knowing that Justin's legacy reaches beyond the desolate landscape of Afghanistan and into the hearts of a grateful nation.

This body and this country owe Justin and his family a debt of gratitude and it is vital that we remember him and his fellow servicemembers who have paid the ultimate price.

Justin is a hero both to his country and to his wonderful family. We salute his selfless service, sacrifice and bravery. May he not be forgotten and may his mission continue in the work of this body and the hearts of all Americans.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

##### HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 14, 2009*

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, I missed rollcall vote Nos. 772–774 on October 13, 2009.

Had I been present, I would have voted:

Rollcall vote No. 772, To provide for an extension of the legislative authority of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, Inc. to establish a Vietnam Veterans Memorial visitor center, "yea."

Rollcall vote No. 773, To reauthorize the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area Citizen Advisory Commission, "yea."

Rollcall vote No. 774, Congratulating Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc., on 98 years of serving local communities and enriching the lives of collegiate men throughout the Nation, "yea."

#### HONORING KYLE L. REECE

##### HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 14, 2009*

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Kyle L. Reece, a very spe-

cial young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 332, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Kyle has been very active with his troop participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Kyle has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Kyle L. Reece for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

#### RECOGNIZING THE BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION OF HIRAM LODGE

##### HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 14, 2009*

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating with the Hiram Lodge #7, Free & Accepted Masons, in Franklin, Tennessee, on the occasion of their bicentennial.

Hiram Lodge is home to the oldest continuous Masonic Lodge in Tennessee, predating the establishment of a Grand Lodge in the state. Located just off the square in Franklin, this beautiful structure has been home to many historical occasions—from President Andrew Jackson's negotiations with the Chickasaw Nation, to serving as a lookout post, barracks, and hospital during the Civil War. The Lodge is undertaking careful renovations to ensure this magnificent structure, the oldest Gothic Revival building in the state of Tennessee, survives for generations to come.

More importantly, however, is the role the Lodge has played in the life of the community over these past 200 years. So many of Franklin's leaders have been members of the Lodge, and to this day the Lodge is deeply involved in the civic and charitable affairs of the City.

Please join me in honoring 200 years of the Hiram Lodge's past, and celebrating this momentous occasion.

#### EARMARK DECLARATION

##### HON. JOANN EMERSON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 14, 2009*

Mrs. EMERSON. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the House Republican standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information in regards to H.R. 2892, the Fiscal Year 2010 Homeland Security Appropriations Bill.

Requesting Member: Rep. JO ANN EMERSON  
Bill: Fiscal Year 2010 Homeland Security Appropriations Act

Account: State and Local Programs  
Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Howell County Emergency Preparedness  
Address of Requesting Entity: 3 Courthouse, West Plains, Missouri 65775

Description of Request: Provide an earmark for \$250,000 for an Emergency Operations

Center in West Plains, Missouri. The Emergency Operations Center will serve the residents of Howell County and surrounding counties in the region in case of any natural or man-made hazards. The funding is budgeted at approximately \$7,275 for administrative and legal expenses; \$81,000 for land, structures, right-of-ways, appraisals, etc.; \$2,925 for project inspection and architectural and engineering fees; \$153,175 for equipment, construction and miscellaneous items; \$5,625 for contingencies.

# IRAN SANCTIONS ENABLING ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

**HON. MIKE QUIGLEY**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 13, 2009*

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the Iran Sanction Act.

On September 25, we learned that Iran has been operating a secret uranium-enrichment plant in the city of Qom, capable of producing enriched uranium for bombs.

The work at Qom has gone on for years in secret and despite five UN Security Council resolutions calling for Iran to cease all work on uranium.

The Iranians continue to claim that their nuclear intentions are peaceful, but the recently discovered plant's "size and configuration" are "inconsistent" with peaceful purposes.

If we had any doubt that Iran was pursuing nuclear weapons, the discovery at Qom dashed that doubt.

Now the U.S. must do its part to stop Iran from obtaining nuclear weapons.

The first step toward crippling Iran's progress toward a nuclear weapon is to impose the sanctions proposed in the bill before us today.

The Iran Sanctions Act calls on state and local governments to cease investing public funds in companies that support Iran's oil and gas sector.

A nuclear armed Iran is a threat to the entire region, particularly our friends in Israel, and could incite nuclear proliferation in the Middle East and around the world.

We must do everything in our power to keep weapons of mass destruction out of the hands of the Iranians, and those efforts start today with this bill and these sanctions.

# HONORING COLLIN HUSTER

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 14, 2009*

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Collin Huster, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 374, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Collin has been very active with his troop participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Collin has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous

merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Collin Huster for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

# COMMEMORATING THE 80TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DAUGHTERS OF PENELOPE

SPEECH OF

**HON. SHELLEY BERKLEY**

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 13, 2009*

Ms. BERKLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as a proud daughter of Greece, and as a cosponsor of this resolution, to join my colleagues in honoring the Daughters of Penelope, an organization of women who exemplify Hellenic values and ideals, both within the United States and across the globe. Over the past 80 years, the efforts of the Daughters of Penelope have had a significant impact on the welfare of those in need. From assistance to battered women and children, to support for cancer research and funding for schools, the work of these women is deserving of our wholehearted recognition and praise.

I want to draw special attention to the contributions that the Daughters of Penelope have made in the fight against breast cancer. Not only has the organization participated in a variety of fundraisers for breast cancer research, the Daughters of Penelope have engaged members of different ethnic communities in countries across the world by preparing and distributing awareness pamphlets that they translated into several languages. Raising awareness is a vital method of fighting breast cancer and I commend the efforts of these women in educating underserved communities about this disease.

Another notable accomplishment of the Daughters of Penelope is the Greek Immigrant Oral History Study, recordings that document the history of Greek women, like my grandmother and great-grandmother, who immigrated to the United States. This project marked the first time that an ethnic organization had submitted its oral history to the Library of Congress, paving the way for other ethnic communities to share their own stories as well.

With great appreciation and admiration, I recognize the invaluable contributions the Daughters of Penelope have made in the spirit of Hellenism. I join in supporting this resolution and urge my colleagues to support it as well.

# COMMENDING THE STAFF AT JOHNS HOPKINS BAYVIEW MEDICAL CENTER

**HON. JOHN P. SARBANES**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 14, 2009*

Mr. SARBANES. Madam Speaker, as Congress works to extend health insurance coverage and improve the quality of care for all Americans, I would like to commend the Johns

Hopkins Center for Innovative Medicine and their Aliko Initiative, an effort to restructure medical education with an emphasis on patient-centered care, for creating an innovative program that puts patients first. The Center for Innovative Medicine, launched five years ago by Dr. David Hellmann and Mr. Richard Paisner, has three goals: getting doctors to know their patients as people, members of families and communities; encouraging collaboration among all members of the Johns Hopkins Bayview campus; and creating a culture where everyone on the Bayview campus feels like a part of something special.

The Center's Aliko Initiative focuses on the first goal and has been called the most important innovation in graduate medical education in a generation by the renowned historian Dr. Kenneth Ludmerer. As described in *Pharos*, the journal of Alpha Omega Alpha, the honor society of medical schools, the Aliko Initiative seeks to train young doctors to get to know their patients as people. Through the generosity of Mrs. Aliko Perroti, internal medicine residents care for patients hospitalized at Johns Hopkins Bayview Medical Center under the direction of Dr. Roy Ziegelstein and Dr. Cynthia Rand. This initiative emphasizes that optimal medical care can only be delivered if medical treatments are tailored to the individual patient, and this can only be done if doctors get to know patients better as people, which sometimes involves visiting them at home after hospital discharge. Dr. Charles B. Green, Surgeon General of the Air Force, circulated the *Pharos* article to all Air Force Medical Service personnel and said, "It [the article] emphasizes the necessity for all of us to understand that health care must be patient-centric. We must know our patients and ensure schedules provide time for care teams to spend with patients. We must focus on the patients to help them achieve new levels of health."

Madam Speaker, I commend the hard-working people at Johns Hopkins Bayview Medical Center, the Center for Innovative Medicine and the Center's Aliko Initiative. Their work should be seen as a model for improving the quality of care for all Americans. I'd like to enter the full text of the *Pharos* article into the RECORD.

# TEACHING RESIDENTS TO KNOW THEIR PATIENTS AS INDIVIDUALS

THE ALIKO INITIATIVE AT JOHNS HOPKINS  
BAYVIEW MEDICAL CENTER

Neda Ratanawongsa, MD, MPH; Cynthia S. Rand, PhD; Cathleen F. Magill, MD, MHS; Jennifer Hayashi, MD; Lynsey Brandt, MD; Colleen Christmas, MD; Janet D. Record, MD; Eric E. Howell, MD; Molly A. Federowicz, MA; David B. Hellmann, MD; Roy C. Ziegelstein, MD

MS. P: CASE SUMMARY

Ms. P is a fifty-year-old woman with a history of hypertension who presented to the hospital with a severe allergic reaction to over-the-counter pain medications. During her hospitalization, Ms. P admitted to the intern that she had experienced the same allergic reaction before and felt ashamed that it had occurred again. In discussing how Ms. P organizes her medications, she also admitted that she only intermittently takes her blood pressure medications. She revealed that she is a busy caregiver for her mother and son, both of whom live with Ms. P and have complex medical problems of their own. The intern, consulting with her resident and attending, wondered how she can best help



Ms. P return home safely and avoid future problems with her medications.

Sir William Osler, if reincarnated and the attending for Ms. P, would have taken this opportunity to teach his residents the importance of knowing her as a person, for it was he who famously observed, "It is much more important to know what sort of a patient has a disease than what sort of a disease a patient has." Despite increasing evidence that knowing the patient as an individual improves patient outcomes, graduate medical education (GME) pays little attention to affording residents the opportunity to know their patients well.

If you ask the members of an inpatient ward team what keeps them from knowing their patients, most—from students to residents to attendings—say, "We don't have enough time." Medical historian Kenneth Ludmerer laments the recent focus of residency training on service over education, with residents caring for greater numbers of patients for shorter periods of time. He argues that a fundamental educational principle of traditional medical education requires that residents learn deeply from and about fewer patients, citing the landmark report by Abraham Flexner: "Men become educated by steeping themselves thoroughly in a few subjects, not by nibbling at many."

Hippocrates wrote, "Healing is a matter of time, but it is sometimes also a matter of opportunity." At Johns Hopkins Bayview Medical Center, we are seizing the opportunity to give residents the gift of time to allow them to become healers and know their patients in the way Osler recommended. The Aliko Initiative—a new educational program named for philanthropist Mrs. Aliko Perroti, who supports our efforts—reduces residents' workloads and creates new opportunities for residents to know their patients more fully both inside and outside the hospital. The program provides residents the time both to get to know their patients and to learn from the reflect with their teachers.

#### THE IMPORTANCE OF PATIENTS' NARRATIVES

The opportunity to know patients as individuals is one of the greatest rewards in medicine. The narratives of our patients' lives fuel our passion for this work and keep us grounded in the art and humanity of medicine. By allowing us into their lives—whether through a single, brief interaction in the hospital or an enduring relationship over decades—patients bestow on us a special privilege.

Beyond this, however, our capacity to know patients as individuals allows us to translate the best evidence-based medicine into the highest quality, personalized care. In 1977, George Engel exhorted physicians to break free from the constraints of the biomedical model to understand "the patient as well as the illness" by uncovering the psychological and social aspects of patients' lives and life views. This patient-centered framework of care is associated with improved patient outcomes, including better quality of life, improved adherence, pain reduction, and improved blood pressure control.

Despite its demonstrated benefits, the widespread failure of the health care system to provide individualized, patient-centered care is directly linked to suboptimal patient outcomes. A survey of 39,090 patients by Consumer Reports published in 2007 shows that fifty-eight percent of them feel their doctors do not know them as individuals. Another report in zoos indicates that, on discharge from the hospital, fewer than half of patients can list or explain the purposes and side effects of their medications. A study by D. R. Calkins and colleagues published in 1997

shows that physicians, on the other hand, tend to overestimate the quality of their discharge instructions. A 2007 paper by Derjung Tarn and coworkers noted that physicians prescribing new medications only stated the name of the medication seventy-four percent of the time and addressed adverse effects and duration of therapy about one-third of the time. This failure by physicians to communicate critical elements of medication use may contribute to failure by patients to take medications as directed. Similarly, Sunil Kripalani and colleagues in an article published in 2007 report that communication between hospital physicians and primary care physicians is often lacking or suboptimal in detail, affecting the quality of care in twenty-five percent of follow-up visits.

#### PATIENT CENTEREDNESS—ONE OF SIX CORE AIMS FOR IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF HEALTH CARE IN THE UNITED STATES

The Institute of Medicine (IOM) report *Crossing the Quality Chasm* highlights patient-centeredness as one of the six core aims for improving the U.S. health care system. The report defines patient-centeredness as: "Providing care that is respectful of and responsive to individual patient preferences, needs, and values, and ensuring that patient values guide all clinical decisions." Toward that goal, the IOM in the follow-up report *Health Professions Education: A Bridge to Quality* proposes that skills in providing patient-centered care should be a central competency for health professionals.

Unfortunately, traditional GME is not prepared for this imperative. The goal of GME is not only to provide trainees with the knowledge and skills to care for patients like Ms. P, but also to inculcate in them the core values of the medical profession. GME today, however, is largely driven by the service needs of medical centers instead of thoughtful educational priorities. Residency graduates emerge from three years of stressful, demanding training ill-equipped to provide the type of patient-centered, quality care Ms. P deserves. Rather than learning to care for patients collaboratively across transitions and in the greater context of their lives, health care is both practiced and taught in "silos." At the same time, the structure and financing of GME elevates the business of medicine over the vocation of medicine, creating a hidden curriculum in which "the values of the profession are becoming increasingly difficult for learners to discern."

Medical school curricula at many schools show an increased emphasis on patient-centered care and the value of effective patient-provider communication. However, once these physicians-in-training enter the typical residency program, they find that their training experiences do not reinforce this emphasis and are not structured to allow them to know and understand their patients as individuals. Unlike proficiency in traditional medical knowledge or clinical judgment, the skill of knowing one's patient as an individual may decline under the influence of a hidden curriculum that may not promote humanistic care. Duty hour reforms limiting the number of hours without adjusting the volume of work may lead some residents to make conscious decisions about how to spend their time, as voiced by one resident in a 2005 survey: "It is harder to have as much time to speak with and really get to know patients, which impacts the ability to have shared decisions and understand patient perspectives."

Finally, GME leaves little time for reflective learning. Reflection allows physicians-in-training to think about the meaning of their experiences with patients and how these experiences are influencing their own

overall professional development. Although medical educators promote the potential value of self-reflection through activities like critical incident reports and portfolios, trainees' capacity for reflection may decline with the workload and fatigue of residency training.

Thus today's young physicians-in-training may master the mechanics of delivering medical care, yet never have the opportunity to learn the art of healing.

#### CREATIVE PHILANTHROPY—KEY TO SUCCESS OF THE ROCKEFELLER FOUNDATION

At the turn of the twentieth century, Frederick T. Gates advised John D. Rockefeller to establish an institute of medical research focused on medical education reform. Rockefeller's \$32 million endowment of the General Education Board comprised the largest gift to higher education up to that time. In 1905, Henry Pritchett of the Carnegie Foundation commissioned Abraham Flexner to study the state of medical education in North America and to make recommendations to improve it. This effort resulted in the publication of the Flexner Report, perhaps the most influential document in the history of American medical education. These achievements a century ago represent striking examples of the ways creative philanthropy can both reform and shape medical education to meet the needs of society.

The need for educational reform is once again upon us, but the funding constraints of a market-driven health care environment hamper innovation by hospitals and educators. Reform in the twenty-first century may require educators to consider again the potential of partnering with the public. The Aliko Initiative is a program designed to create physicians who treat all patients with compassionate, competent, and personalized care.

The Aliko Initiative aims to develop caring doctors who have a genuine and deep appreciation of the importance of knowing each patient's unique personal circumstances and who make patient care recommendations that apply the best evidence to the individual patient. The program reduces the number of patients assigned to each resident, providing residents more time to spend with patients during and after their hospitalizations, and thus offering new opportunities for residents to learn from and about their patients.

The Johns Hopkins Bayview Medical Center is an academic medical center serving 8700 medicine inpatients per year; twenty percent are poor. Patients hospitalized on the medical service receive care either from a hospitalist service or from one of four house staff teams. Teams contain one resident, two interns, two students on basic medicine clerkship rotation, a faculty attending, and a case manager. A traditional team admits ten patients every fourth night on "long-call" and four patients during an intervening "short-call." In October 2007, one team became an Aliko Team, admitting five long-call patients and two short-call patients. Hospitalists care for the patients who would otherwise be admitted by this house staff team.

#### LOWER PATIENT LOAD ENABLES MORE TEACHING TO THE ALIKO TEAM

With this reduced census, the Aliko Team has the time to participate in teaching sessions and mentored experiences designed to foster appreciation of knowing each patient as a unique person and understanding each patient's psychosocial circumstances. This begins from the admission encounter, when house staff learn to elicit a more meaningful, detailed history that includes patients' understanding of their illness and their health. By engaging in this dialogue with patients, their caregivers, and their outpatient

health care providers, house staff learn who and what patients have left behind when they arrive at the hospital, an often forgotten but equally important transition time.

Residents also learn how to provide counseling and treatment to match patients' needs and concerns. One key component of the Aliko Initiative is learning to assess and overcome potential barriers to medication adherence, particularly by tailoring evidence-based treatment to the patients' particular preferences and resources.

During each day of the hospitalization, house staff continue these conversations, honing their skills in patient education and joining with patients in shared decision making about diagnostic or therapeutic options. Leading up to and on the day of discharge, house staff prepare patients and their caregivers for the transition to home, rehabilitation centers, or other settings in the patients' communities.

In contrast to usual practice following discharge, residents call all patients within a few days of discharge to answer questions, check their understanding of the hospitalization and treatment recommendations, review their understanding and ability to adhere to the discharge treatment regimen, and offer assistance with any problems that have arisen in the transition.

Finally, the Aliko Initiative provides the most powerful learning opportunity of all: team members learn to know their patients as individuals within their own homes and communities. Five or more patients per month give residents permission to visit them after discharge in their homes or subacute care facilities. Often, patients allow residents to photograph or film these visits, so the house staff can teach their colleagues about these rich, rewarding experiences during a monthly Aliko morning report conference.

#### OUTCOME—NARRATIVE MEDICINE YIELDS BETTER PATIENT CARE

Since October 2007, over half of our house staff have participated in the Aliko rotation. During hospitalizations, residents spend more time at the bedside with their patients and patients' loved ones, discussing medications and other treatments and coordinating care with outpatient providers. Interns and residents say they gain their greatest insights during their time with patients after discharge, when they call all of their patients and visit five or six patients at their homes or subacute care facilities.

In addition to enhanced time with patients, team members have the time to reflect on their professional and personal growth, both individually and as a team. Each month, faculty and attendings working with the Aliko house staff meet to debrief the team about their experiences. The most striking and consistent observation is how often house staff report "being surprised" by what they have learned about their patients. Prior assumptions about a patient's preferences, barriers, abilities, or concerns are regularly challenged when residents take the time to know patients individually. This deeper insight, in turn, has repeatedly led to opportunities to provide better patient care. Below we present some examples of "assumption-challenging" Aliko experiences and how they impacted patients and house staff.

#### MS. P: THE HOME VISIT

A few days after discharge from the hospital, the Aliko Team intern and attending visited Ms. P at her home, learning more about her home situation and meeting her mother and son. They discovered that—in an attempt to remind herself to take her medications—Ms. P keeps her medications on her dining room table. Otherwise, she reported, the medications are "out of sight, out of

mind." The intern realized that both Ms. P's mother and her son also keep their prescription and over-the-counter medications in the same location, increasing the chances that any of them could take the wrong medication. The intern also learned about the ways Ms. P copes with caring for her family, including the supports she receives from her community. Together, the intern and Ms. P brainstormed about how to organize her medications more safely and help her remember how to take them.

From the home visit the intern learned more about the challenges of integrating a complex medical regimen into a person's daily life and ways to engage patients in finding solutions to these challenges. Ms. P expressed appreciation that the intern took the time to come to her home: "They treated me like I was someone special."

This learning experience is just one of many. Other examples of Aliko experiences include:

An intern spent significant time with a man facing a difficult decision about treatment for pancreatic cancer. The patient initially told him, "I'll do whatever you say, Doc." Nevertheless, the intern patiently spoke with him every day to learn about his goals of care and preferences. He wasn't sure he was making any difference until one day the patient told him, "Doc, I don't want any of those things. I want to go home." The intern helped him transition to home hospice, and felt certain that this was "the right thing to do for him."

A former Aliko resident working as the urgent care doctor for the clinic described "an Aliko moment" during which he discovered that a patient with gastrointestinal bleeding was unable to afford his proton pump inhibitor after hospitalization. Experience on an Aliko Team gave him the skill and confidence to ask the patient explicitly and thoughtfully about all barriers to adherence. The resident switched the patient to a generic medication covered by the patient's insurance and spent time counseling the patient about the rationale for this therapy.

An intern visited a patient with urinary retention in a subacute care facility and learned that the patient's Foley catheter had been removed despite notations not to do so in the "hospital course" section of the discharge summary, and despite the patient's own recall of their recommendations. The team resolved that in the future they would document more explicit instructions with the medications list at the end of discharge summaries and call ahead to subacute care facilities for similar important follow-up issues.

Although residents were initially concerned that fewer patients would mean less opportunity for traditional medical learning, in fact, they report having more time for evidence-based and bedside teaching. One team decided to focus on physical diagnosis skills. The teaching attending physician on this team described the experience as "the first time I am sure that the interns really knew how to examine a patient by the end of my weeks with them." The supervising residents also relished the additional time to search the literature for articles and prepare teaching for the team.

House staff participating in the Aliko team feel greater pride and more fulfilled in their work. In the words of one intern, "It's given me time to be the kind of doctor I've always wanted to be and do the things I should be doing for all my patients."

#### MS. P: EPILOGUE

Asked about the home visit, Ms. P said, "I thought those days were over. You know, how the doctors used to come to your house. They came down, sat down to talk, to see

how I was getting out of the hospitalization. And that made me feel good because some doctors don't have that interest or do a follow-up to find out how the patients are doing . . . That's letting the patients know that someone else cares. That made me feel that I was important, and they're learning from me! . . . They treated me like I was the only patient they had to see that day. They treated me like I was someone special."

#### WHERE FROM HERE? MORE OPPORTUNITIES FOR INNOVATIVE MEDICINE

Our early experience suggests that the Aliko Initiative has the potential to increase residents' skills and motivation to deliver patient-centered care. Ongoing and planned evaluations of the program's outcomes include:

An assessment of Aliko residents' self-assessed behaviors, attitudes, and skills before and after participation in the experience.

Trainees' perceptions and understanding of medication adherence and cost.

An audit of the medical records of patients cared for by an Aliko team, compared with patients cared for in other settings, to evaluate prespecified aspects of inpatient care, transitions of care, and the quality of discharge documentation.

In addition, we will examine the impact of the Aliko Initiative on such patient outcomes as hospital length of stay, quality and safety of the transition from hospital to home or to another care team at a skilled nursing facility, rates of rehospitalization, patients' knowledge about their medical conditions and medications, and patients' perspectives about the quality of their care and health care providers. These evaluations may help educators at other institutions determine what parts of this curriculum to try at their own institutions, and to secure grant funding to support such efforts. In addition, such evaluations may prove helpful to policy makers as they shape the future funding structure of GME.

Like the Flexner Report a century ago, the Aliko Initiative resulted from private philanthropy directed to improving medical training for the public good. When doctors and private citizens together view medicine and medical education as a public trust, everyone benefits. It also reminds medical educators that we cannot accept the status quo and need to show the public what our vision for patient-centered care can and must be. As Molly Cooke and her coauthors write, "No one would cheer more loudly for a change in medical education than Abraham Flexner. . . . He would undoubtedly support the fundamental restructuring of medical education needed today. Indeed, we suspect he would find it long overdue."

Acknowledgment: The Aliko Initiative is funded through the Johns Hopkins Center for Innovative Medicine, thanks to the generosity of Mrs. Aliko Perroti.

#### HONORING TYLER AARON BEDELL

#### HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 14, 2009

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Tyler Aaron Bedell, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 374, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Tyler has been very active with his troop participating in many scout activities. Over the



many years Tyler has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Tyler Aaron Bedell for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

### SUPPORTING NATIONAL WORK AND FAMILY MONTH

SPEECH OF

**HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 13, 2009*

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today in support of H. Res. 768, "Expressing support for the designation of the month of October as National Work and Family Month" I would like to thank my colleague, Rep. MCCARTHY, for introducing this act of solidarity, as well as the co-sponsors.

It is well established that employees who are able to effectively balance family and work responsibilities feel healthier and more successful in their relationships with their spouses, children, and friends. The quality of workers' jobs and the supportiveness of their workplaces are key predictors of job productivity, job satisfaction, commitment to employers, and retention; employees who are able to effectively balance family and work responsibilities are less likely to report making mistakes or feeling resentment toward employers and coworkers. These workers are also engaged and less likely to look for a new job in the next year, and also enjoy better overall health, better mental health, and lower levels of stress.

It is not only at the office that this balance makes a difference—job flexibility often allows parents to be more involved in their children's lives, and parental involvement is associated with higher child achievement in language and mathematics, improved behavior, greater academic persistence, and lower dropout rates. Conversely, a lack of job flexibility for parents negatively affects child health by preventing children from making needed doctors' appointments and receiving adequate early care, which makes illnesses more severe and prolonged.

American workers know this firsthand. That's why research by the Radcliffe Public Policy Center in 2000 found that men in their 20s and 30s and women in their 20s, 30s, and 40s identified as the most important job characteristic a work schedule that allows them to spend time with their families. According to research by the Sloan Center for Aging and Work, a majority of workers age 53 and older attribute their success as an employee, by a great or moderate extent, to job flexibility, and also report that, to a great extent, job flexibility contributes to an overall higher quality of life.

In a 2009 survey entitled "Great Expectations! What Students Want in an Employer and How Federal Agencies Can Deliver It", attaining a healthy work-life balance was an important career goal of 66 percent of respondents, and a 2008 study entitled "A Golden Opportunity", which found that workers between the ages of 50 and 65 are a strong source of

experienced talent for the Federal workforce and that nearly 50 percent of these potential workers find flexible work schedules "extremely appealing". According to the 2006 American Community Survey, 47 percent of wage and salaried workers are parents with children under the age of 18 who live with them at least half-time.

Since 85 percent of United States wage and salaried workers have immediate, day-to-day family responsibilities outside of their jobs, efforts to help workers achieve this balance is of no small importance to the prosperity of our nation. As an example, from 2001 to early 2008, 1,700,000 active duty troops have served in Iraq and 600,000 members of the National Guard and Reserve (133,000 on more than one tour) have been called up to serve, creating a need for policies and programs to help military families adjust to the realities that come with having a family member in the military.

This resolution supports the designation of "National Work and Family Month"; recognizes the importance of balancing work and family to job productivity and healthy families; recognizes that an important job characteristic is a work schedule that allows employees to spend time with families; supports the goals and ideals of "National Work and Family Month", and urges public officials, employers, employees, and the general public to work together to achieve more balance between work and family; and requests that the President issue a proclamation calling upon the people of the United States to observe "National Work and Family Month" with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

### CONGRATULATING ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

**HON. DINA TITUS**

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 14, 2009*

Ms. TITUS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church as they mark their 50th anniversary as a congregation during the month of October. I am looking forward to celebrating with my friends at the church in the coming weeks.

Incorporated on April 8, 1959, and named in September of the same year, the Church has long served as a pillar of the Las Vegas community. As the first Greek Orthodox Church in Southern Nevada, St. John's welcomed new Americans of Greek descent to Las Vegas and helped them feel at home in the community. St. John's has also educated thousands of children in the rituals and faith of the Greek Orthodox Church, ensuring the strength and vitality of the doctrine.

Since 1959, the congregation and its leaders have remained true to its core Greek Orthodox principles of faith and family. This large and dynamic community has been a guiding light in Southern Nevada. The Church offers both religious and Greek language classes for children and young adults, as well as a bookstore for all ages. The Church has been home to many happy occasions, including christenings, religious holidays, birthdays, and weddings. Our community has also come together

in times of mourning to offer consolation and comfort to the grieving. St. John's has been a valuable part of my life since I moved to Las Vegas more than 30 years ago as I was welcomed with authentic Greek hospitality.

In the past 50 years, the Church has expanded from a small group of patrons to a large community meeting in a beautiful Church located in the heart of District 3, whose design was inspired by St. Euphemia of the Hippodrome in Constantinople. Today, St. John's has a vibrant membership and is host to a community center and educational facilities.

Since 2003, the Hellenic Historical Society has been preserving and chronicling the history of the Greek community of Las Vegas in order to pass on this important record to future generations. Through exhibits and presentations, the Historical Society has been educating and informing the Greek community of its deep roots in the Las Vegas Valley. Their newest educational project is tracing the ancestral roots of the Greek community and their journey to Southern Nevada.

The Church is also active in social justice projects that benefit children, seniors, the sick, and the poor. Through a variety of social action projects, congregation members are constantly contributing and working not only to improve Southern Nevada, but also the worldwide community.

The Church hosts regular events celebrating Greek heritage such as folk dancing, led by award winning dancing teams, and Easter egg hunts. There is also an annual Greek Food festival which is famous throughout the Las Vegas Valley for its wonderful music, camaraderie, and the best Greek food outside of Athens.

I congratulate St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church for its first 50 years of successes and extend my best wishes for the next 50 years.

### COMMEMORATING THE 120TH ANNI- VERSARY OF THE FENIMORE STREET UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

**HON. YVETTE D. CLARKE**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 14, 2009*

Ms. CLARKE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 120th anniversary of the Fenimore Street United Methodist Church located in Flatbush, Brooklyn.

Fenimore Street Methodist Church was incorporated on August 20th 1889 and admitted into the New York East Conference in April 1890 with Rev. James L. Hall as its first pastor.

Over the years, Fenimore has served the people of Brooklyn as not only a house of worship, but as a pillar of the community. As the neighborhood changed, so did church patronage which culminated in 1968 with Rev. William J. Smart becoming Fenimore's first black minister. In the tradition of firsts, in 2002, Rev. Dr. Maxine Nixon was named Fenimore's first female minister.

Fenimore Street Methodist Church has undergone many renovations and weathered many challenges under the steadfast leadership of its pastors. Providing such services as the summer camp for neighborhood children

and remaining a pillar of support for those who have fallen on hard times are just some of the ways in which Fenimore has served Brooklyn over the years.

Madam Speaker, I'd like to acknowledge the very distinguished pastors that have poured their heart and soul into Fenimore Street United Methodist Church. They include: Revs. James L. Hall; C.S. Williams; J.S. Bell; C.A. Knesai; H.E. Kiley; G.W. Osman; L.H. Caswell; W.G. Griffin; G.L. Thompson; C.C. Coile; E.J. Marvin; H.C. Whitney; Arthur C. Brown; James Link; John S. Smith; Dr. W.C. Sainsbury; Ward J. Kemenway; James Veatch; Maron Cox; William Smartt; Randolph Fisher; Alfred Harper; Lester Baker; Dr. Neville Buchanan; Dr. Ivan J. Roberts and Dr. Maxine Nixon.

Again I'd like to congratulate and thank Fenimore Street United Methodist on 120 years of service to Brooklyn.

#### RECOGNITION OF MT. DIABLO PEACE AND JUSTICE CENTER 40TH ANNIVERSARY

##### HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 14, 2009*

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the Mt. Diablo Peace & Justice Center, an invaluable institution in the San Francisco Bay Area that will be celebrating its 40th Anniversary on October 19, 2009.

Founded in 1969 by the late Andy Baltzo, the Mount Diablo Peace and Justice Center was initially known to most residents of Contra Costa County as simply, "The Peace Center." Its goal was to provide residents of the East Bay with a voice against the escalating war in Vietnam as well as a focal point for issues of social justice.

After our troops returned from Southeast Asia, members of the Peace Center recognized that the quest for peace and justice is never ending. The Center turned its attention to issues of nuclear arms reduction, military disarmament, and avoidance of U.S. entanglement in the conflicts in Central America.

Instrumental in the early development of the Peace Center was the work of a core group of committed peace activists including Arne Westerback, Louise Clark, and Sheila Pederesen.

Over the years, the Center expanded its focus to include a wide range of programs that addressed raising peaceful children and race awareness. The larger community continued to have a voice through the Peace Center and has benefited from organized non-violent protests against military conflicts, including most recently the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq. These protests take the form of peace marches, demonstrations, and a unique war memorial known as The Crosses of Lafayette. Much national and even international attention was focused on the local community when multi-denominational memorials were erected on a highly visible hillside one for each American military service member who has died in the current conflicts. It's a silent but powerful reminder to all who pass by of the human toll of war.

The Mt. Diablo Peace and Justice Center also provides inspirational classes in non-violence

that continue to benefit the community as a whole. With its access to nationally known speakers, educational forums, and film series, the Center is able to promote peace and justice through a variety of mediums. Students, parents and teachers have access to a wide range of programs that include the Art and Writing Challenge and Youth in the Military, a counseling service for young people on national service alternatives to the military. Through local food collection and distribution, The Center also addresses the needs of the poor living in our local community.

As our world becomes seemingly smaller, the Peace Center is once again broadening its program. Currently, plans are underway for an International Peace Youth Camp which will bring outstanding teen leaders from around the world to the Center. Once at camp, they will have the opportunity to get to know each other and learn new methods of co-existence through cultural exchange.

Today, dedicated Peace Center leaders such as Barbara and Ed Tonningsen and Bob Hanson continue to bring the lessons of non-violence to our community and beyond.

I applaud the Mt. Diablo Peace and Justice Center for its strong, principled, and ongoing voice on the issues of peace and justice and I am proud to bring this organization to the attention of my colleagues. Congratulations to past and present members who have kept the Center viable and dynamic throughout the decades. As you celebrate 40 Years of Peacemaking, I wish you continued success.

#### 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TEXAS A&M INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY

##### HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 14, 2009*

Mr. CUELLAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to mark the momentous 40th anniversary of the Texas A&M International University.

Texas A&M International University first began as a "center" in August 1970 under Texas A&I University in Kingsville in order to fill a demand in teacher education and business disciplines. Seven years later, the name changed to Laredo State University and in 1993, the institution became Texas A&M International University. In the fall of 1995, the Texas Legislature authorized the expansion of a four-year undergraduate program status with an eventual authorization for doctoral programs. Today, the university has been at the forefront of providing higher education and cultural opportunities to students of Laredo and surrounding south Texas region.

Texas A&M International University consists of the College of Arts and Sciences, the College of Business, the College of Education, the College of Nursing and Health Sciences, and a NCAA Division II Athletics program. Undoubtedly, this university serves as a unique asset to the fundamental groundwork for progressive and influential Hispanic serving institutions. TAMIU has 92 percent of students identifying themselves as minority, including, Hispanic, African-American, Asian and other. Additionally, a rising number of baccalaureate graduates have been first-generation college students. This university has seen enrollment

growth of approximately 10 percent every academic semester and recently welcomed its largest freshman class ever. The growth in admission numbers has provided social strides towards students attending the highest quality programs built on solid academic foundations.

Over the years, TAMIU has increased success for the development in the community, educational achievement, and promising academic endeavors. I am happy to have this opportunity to congratulate Texas A&M International University on the occasion of its 40th anniversary, and I wish all staff and students many more years of success.

#### IRAN SANCTIONS ENABLING ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

##### HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 13, 2009*

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as a cosponsor and supporter of H.R. 1327, the Iran Sanctions Enabling Act. The apparent pursuit of nuclear weapons capability by the Government of Iran cannot be met with silence. Iran's history of concealing its nuclear facilities and programs has rightfully alarmed the international community about Iranian Government's ambitions. The revelation last month of a previously undisclosed uranium enrichment facility under construction near Qom adds to a growing list of deeply troubling actions by the Iranian regime. President Obama stated clearly that this new facility does not appear to be configured for the production of fuel for nuclear power reactors. Iran has a responsibility to fully comply with the International Atomic Energy Agency inspections and to definitively clarify the status and nature of the Qom site.

Unfortunately, the mistrust and skepticism surrounding the Iranian nuclear issue are a result of more than Iran's covert efforts. The provocative and threatening rhetoric that we have come to expect from the President of Iran is cause for great concern both for our allies, such as Israel, and for our own interests in the region. In addition, we have witnessed the Iranian regime carry out brutal acts of violence against Iranian citizens as they gathered peacefully to express their political beliefs. The United States cannot ignore this violation of basic human rights, but neither can we ignore the stark reminder about the potential consequences of a nuclear weapon in the hands of a government that expresses such disregard for the lives and liberties of its own citizens.

Taken together, the Iranian Government's actions are inconsistent with those of a nation seeking peaceful nuclear energy technology. It is incumbent upon the Government of Iran to demonstrate unequivocally to the international community that it is not attempting to cultivate nuclear weapons.

Until the Iranian regime fulfills this responsibility, Iran will face the consequences of non-compliance with this internationally recognized obligation. The provisions of the Iran Sanctions Enabling Act should be part of those consequences. This bill would authorize state and local governments to divest their assets from, and prohibit investment in, any company

that invests \$20 million or more in Iran's energy sector. It also protects from legal action any asset managers who choose to divest assets from, or avoid investing in, persons or companies with the same level of financial ties with Iran's energy sector. These are common sense measures that enable state and local governments or individual U.S. citizens to choose not to allow their financial investments to support companies or persons that contribute to the prosperity and strength of the current Iranian government.

I firmly believe that the United States must do everything in its power to prevent Iran from further destabilizing the Middle East by obtaining a nuclear weapon, and I am encouraged by the Obama administration's vigorous diplomatic efforts to achieve that end. The Iranians should be given credit for their recent tentative agreements to meet international expectations, but these words must be matched with sincere and transparent actions that convince the international community of Iran's peaceful intentions. To that end, I note that the provisions of H.R. 1327 would terminate upon certification by the President that Iran is no longer designated a state sponsor of terrorism and has ceased the pursuit of nuclear, biological, and chemical weapons. It is my hope that this sunset clause serves as a potent reminder to the Iranian government that while all actions have consequences, the United States always stands ready to match positive actions with positive consequences. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

#### EARMARK DECLARATION

### HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 14, 2009

Mr. SIMPSON. Madam Speaker, in accordance with the policies and standards put forth by the House Appropriations Committee and the GOP Leadership, I submit a list of the congressionally directed projects I have requested in my home state of Idaho that are contained in the Conference Report to accompany H.R. 3183, the FY 2010 Energy and Water Development Appropriations Bill.

Project Name: City of Boise Geothermal Expansion to Boise State University

Amount Received: \$1,000,000

Account: DOE Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Geothermal Technology

Recipient: City of Boise

Recipient's Street Address: 150 N Capitol Boulevard, Third Floor, Boise, Idaho 83702

Description: The Boise City geothermal system currently provides a low cost, environmentally sound, sustainable, locally provided heat source to commercial and publicly owned buildings in downtown Boise. Geothermal heat is considered a renewable source of energy and does not rely on fossil fuels, nuclear power, mining or damming of rivers and emits zero emissions into the atmosphere. This project will extend the City of Boise geothermal pipeline system to Boise State University and would have the capacity to heat almost two million square feet on the campus. As global energy costs increase, the expansion to increased facilities will provide significant cost savings.

Project Name: Idaho Accelerator Center Production of Medical Isotopes

Amount Received: \$1,500,000

Account: DOE Office of Science

Recipient: Idaho State University

Recipient's Street Address: 921 South 8th Avenue, Pocatello, ID 83209

Description: The National Academy of Sciences recently issued a report recommending that the federal government increase support to radionuclide production, distribution and basic research in production mechanisms; increase the domestic production of medical radionuclides through dedicated accelerators and reactors; and educate the next generation of medically-related nuclear scientists. The Idaho Accelerator Center (IAC) will develop a medical isotope production facility that will serve regional isotope needs, conduct basic research in isotope production, educate the next generation of medically-related nuclear scientists, and partner with regional and national entities in medical isotope distribution and use. This program will meet regional and national needs in education and isotope production and provide new isotopes that are not currently part of the national isotope portfolio. IAC will complement, supplement and enhance DOE's National Isotope Program.

Project Name: Idaho National Laboratory Center for Advanced Energy Studies (CAES)

Amount Received: \$1,000,000

Account: DOE Office of Science

Recipient: Idaho National Laboratory

Recipient's Street Address: 2525 North Freemont St., Idaho Falls, Idaho 83415

Description: CAES is a partnership between the State of Idaho and its academic research institutions, the federal government through the U.S. Department of Energy and the Idaho National Laboratory managed by the Battelle Energy Alliance, LLC. Through its collaborative structure, CAES combines the efforts of these institutions to provide timely energy research on both technical and policy issues. The funds provided will procure world-class computation and visualization research equipment to be located in the CAES research laboratory. These research tools will enable both critical-path scientific research and graduate education programs focused on such twenty-first century energy challenges as the availability of carbon-neutral renewable energy, such as biofuels for transportation; the stewardship of the environment including water resource management through energy efficiency; the management of fossil fuel energy systems; and the expansion of energy production from commercial nuclear power while educating the next generation of scientists, engineers, policy makers and the public.

Project Name: Little Wood River Ecosystem Restoration

Amount Received: \$100,000

Account: Corps of Engineers

Recipient: City of Gooding, Idaho

Recipient's Street Address: 308 5th Ave. West, Gooding, ID 83330

Description: This funding was authorized in the Water Resources Development Act of 2007 and would be used to repair and replace an aging WPA/CCC project that channeled the Little Wood River through the City of Gooding, Idaho. The project will remove and replace the existing rock wall and the boxed culverts that severely restrict the stream channel flow. Approximately 1.5 miles of the Little Wood River flow within Gooding city limits. Over the years, aging along with high water and ice jam events have caused severe deterioration of

the masonry rock walls constructed in the 1930's and 40's in order to protect the city from floods. Large portions of the existing lava rock walls that line the Little Wood River through the city are structurally unserviceable and many have failed and fallen into the channel. This deterioration has increased at an alarming rate. The Corps of Engineers and the City of Gooding have been working on a solution for this rock wall failure for the past 20 years. The Army Corps has completed the Reconnaissance Study and the General Investigation Study, but the project has been on hold due to a lack of funding.

Project Name: Rural Idaho Section 595

Amount Received: \$3,875,000

Account: Corps of Engineers

Recipient: Walla Walla District Corps of Engineers

Recipient's Street Address: Boise Field Office, 304 8th St., Rm. 140, Boise, ID 83702-5802

Description: The funding was authorized in the Water Resources Development Act of 2007. This funding is critical to assisting rural Idaho communities in upgrading their water and wastewater treatment facilities. In many cases, this funding is required to comply with unfunded mandates passed down by this Congress and federal agencies. In addition, these funds help rural communities in Idaho trying to attract new businesses and spur economic development. The vital water funding in this bill will assist rural communities in job creation and affordable housing by offering improved services at lower costs than would otherwise be possible. This request is consistent with the intended purpose of this account. Funding will be directed primarily to the Eastern Idaho Regional Wastewater Authority in Shelley, Idaho.

I appreciate the opportunity to provide a list of Congressionally-directed projects included in the Conference Report to accompany HR 3183, the FY2010 Energy and Water Development Appropriations bill, on behalf of Idaho and provide an explanation of my support for them.

#### HONORING ROBERTO MAESTAS

### HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 14, 2009

Mr. McDERMOTT. Madam Speaker, today I rise to offer special recognition to my constituent and friend, Roberto Maestas, as he steps into a new role after serving as the executive director of El Centro de la Raza for the past 37 years. For more than 40 years, Mr. Maestas has been intimately involved in the ongoing struggle for civil rights and social justice, not only for Latinos, but for all disadvantaged people. He is among Seattle's most respected figures, esteemed for his effectiveness, his political savvy, and his legendary persuasive powers.

Mr. Maestas recently has become Senior Advisor and Chair of Historical Resources at El Centro de la Raza. El Centro de la Raza's board of directors has asked Mr. Maestas to lead a program to chronicle, collect, record and preserve El Centro de la Raza's historical contributions to the local, national, and international community and to the social justice movement. We are so fortunate to have this

opportunity to capture an accurate, vibrant history of a tumultuous, formative era with someone who not only lived through it but actually helped to make that history.

Roberto Maestas was born in New Mexico, but he has called Seattle, Washington, his home since the early 1950s. As a young man, Mr. Maestas taught at Franklin High School before pursuing a graduate degree at the University of Washington in 1968, where he became one of the University's first Chicano graduates.

In the early 1970s, as part of the United States War on Poverty, Mr. Maestas helped form an Adult Basic Education and English as a Second Language (ESL) program at South Seattle Community College to serve the city's growing Latino community. But, in 1972, funding was abruptly cut, and the program needed a new home. Mr. Maestas, along with fellow teachers, students, and a number of community activists, peaceably occupied the abandoned Beacon Hill School, and negotiated its conversion into a new community center, El Centro de la Raza.

Under his leadership, El Centro has become a voice and hub for Latinos seeking services, advocacy, and social justice. It has grown from a provider of ESL classes to a multi-million dollar Community Action Agency offering a wide array of services to thousands of low-income people of diverse ethnic backgrounds. Its programs include a bilingual child care center, a Basic Healthcare enrollment program, a food bank, senior services, and a home ownership program.

In addition, Mr. Maestas and El Centro de la Raza have been at the forefront of multicultural and international initiatives. El Centro played a prominent role in local solidarity campaigns with Central American social justice activists, and it continues to host art exhibitions, cross-cultural exchanges, and international speakers. Mr. Maestas, along with Bernie Whitebear, Larry Gossett, and Bob Santos co-founded the Minority Executive Directors' Coalition; his extraordinary work over three decades to build the strongest municipal multi-racial coalition in the United States is widely acknowledged and justly acclaimed. Although the founding of El Centro de la Raza was sparked by Latinos and distinguished with a Spanish name, that name translates in English to: "The Center for the People of All Races." Through the years, Mr. Maestas has worked with diligence and determination to ensure that El Centro is "home" for all people interested in advancing the struggle for a better world by serving, educating, defending, and organizing each other to build the "beloved community" envisioned by Martin Luther King, Jr.

Appropriately, El Centro de la Raza and Mr. Maestas have received countless international, national, state, and local awards, including the "Thousand Points of Light" award in 1991 from the President George Bush, Sr.

Madam Speaker, Roberto Maestas is an invaluable asset to the Seattle community. His contributions and his commitment to better the lives of all people deserve our gratitude, our deep respect, and our keen approbation. The people of Seattle, including the thousands who have been served at El Centro de la Raza and the countless students, volunteers, and staff whom he has touched, are grateful for his kind guidance and his visionary leadership. I join them in thanking Mr. Maestas for his service, and in wishing him all the best in his future endeavors.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 14, 2009*

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, on October 13, 2009, I was unavoidably detained and was unable to record my vote for rollcall No. 773. Had I been present I would have voted:

Rollcall No. 773: "yea"—to reauthorize the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area Citizen Advisory Commission.

## IRAN SANCTIONS ENABLING ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

### HON. SHELLEY BERKLEY

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 13, 2009*

Ms. BERKLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Iran Sanctions Enabling Act, which helps State and local governments do their part to divest from Iran.

The Iranian regime represents a threat to us, to Israel, and to our allies throughout the Middle East and beyond. Their president has threatened to destroy Israel and has repeatedly denied the Holocaust. Iran's leaders have sought to destabilize the entire Middle East and are sparking an arms race in that region. In the last few weeks, we have seen just how far the Iranians are willing to go to conceal their weapons programs, and only time will tell how many more hidden nuclear sites we will find there.

With this bill today, we help our States and local governments to play a role in the international effort to halt Iran's march toward nuclear weapons. As is so often the case, they have not waited for us to act. I am proud that, in June of this year, my home State of Nevada passed a law to help make sure our State Public Employee Retirement System does not invest in Iran, or in companies that do a large amount of business with Iran. Steps like this will help to show just how determined we are—on every level—to stopping Iran's nuclear threat.

We must do everything we can to stop Iran from obtaining nuclear weapons. The UN Security Council must act now, and place further sanctions on Iran. UN member states must do their part to enforce the already-existing sanctions. We in Congress will soon pass our own further sanctions, and I hope we will continue to give our government the tools it needs to further tighten the screws on Iran's financial sector. We must use every tool available to us before it is too late.

I urge support for this bill.

## HONORING CHARLES JOSEPH WATSON BRYAN HUCKE

### HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 14, 2009*

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Charles Joseph Watson

Bryan Huckle, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 374, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

CJ has been very active with his troop participating in many scout activities. Over the many years CJ has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Charles Joseph Watson Bryan Huckle for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

## NATIONAL HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH 2009

### HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 14, 2009*

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of the observance of National Hispanic Heritage Month 2009.

Since the birth of this country, Hispanics have played a tremendous role in the nation's social, economic, and political movements. Today, more than 47 million people of Hispanic origin live in the United States and represent the nation's fastest growing ethnic population. At this time, more than half a million Hispanic men and women reside in my home state of New York.

During National Hispanic Heritage Month, we celebrate the rich history and culture of Hispanic Americans. Hispanic Americans from all 50 states and territories are honored for their contributions to our society, which make up a critical part of America's identity and background. Hispanic Americans continue to share in the sacrifice and civic duties of their fellow U.S. citizens, and in fact, the Puerto Rican military participation rate is the second highest in the country.

Last month, I was joined by Representatives PIERLUISI, WASSERMAN SHULTZ and MICA in co-sponsoring legislation, H.R. 3718, to make residents of Puerto Rico fully eligible for the refundable portion of the child tax credit. The bill broadens the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 that currently excludes from the child tax credit Puerto Rican families with less than three children. At this time, the child tax credit is available to U.S. citizens in the 50 states, including residents of Puerto Rico who move to a state.

Expanding the child tax credit to Puerto Rican families with one child or more will inject critical funds into Puerto Rico's economy by directly boosting the incomes of the island's working families. Puerto Rico has been in an official recession for over three years, and its unemployment rate is 15.1 percent, which is significantly higher than the national average of 9.8 percent. Denying Puerto Rican families' access to proven United States economic recovery measures is unproductive and unjust, and it is time to afford U.S. citizens who are living in Puerto Rico the benefits of the child tax credit.

In conclusion, National Hispanic Heritage Month 2009 is marked by President Obama's

successful appointment of the first Hispanic Associate Justice to the United States Supreme Court, the Honorable Sonia Sotomayor. The nomination and appointment of our fellow New Yorker to the Supreme Court earlier this year is one in which our nation should take pride—for it broke down ethnic and gender barriers that will forever open the doors to future generations of Americans. I congratulate Justice Sotomayor on her appointment.

As this year's National Hispanic Heritage Month comes to an end, please join me in proudly honoring Hispanic Americans for their countless contributions to our nation.

---

IN HONOR OF PATROL OFFICER  
JAMES SIMONE

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 14, 2009*

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Patrol Officer James Simone, a Cleveland Division of Police officer, who is one of just 12 officers to have been honored at the 2009 Police Service Awards.

Officer Simone was born on Cleveland's Eastside and attended St. Thomas Aquinas Elementary School. His family later moved to Lakewood, Ohio in 1966 where Officer Simone graduated from Lakewood High School. In 1968 Officer Simone joined the U.S. Military's 101st Airborne Paratrooper unit during the Vietnam War and received two Purple Hearts and two Bronze Stars for his service. After returning to Cleveland, Officer Simone became an officer for the Cleveland Police Department at the age of 25.

Officer Simone has now served the residents of Cleveland, Ohio as a police officer for 36 years in the capacity of a homicide detective, member of the SWAT team, undercover agent and currently serves as a patrolman for Cleveland's second district. Throughout his career, Officer Simone has been shot, stabbed and run over numerous times, and despite it all, he continues to serve as a dedicated officer.

While it is not the first award for the decorated Officer Simone, it is his heroic actions on January 10th, 2009 that has earned Officer Simone the honor of being named one of America's Top Police Officers this month. On that night, a woman fell through the ice-covered Cuyahoga River and was unable to get out of the freezing water. Officer Simone arrived at the scene and when a life-preserver failed as a rescuing device, he risked his life and jumped into the water to save the victim. Both the woman and Officer Simone suffered from hypothermia but survived because of his selfless and heroic decision.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor of Patrol Officer James Simone who has been the awarded an honorable mention in the 2009 Police Service Awards. While his heroic actions on January 10th, 2009 have earned him this honor, the residents of Cleveland have been awarded with Officer Simone's 35 years of dedicated service.

HONORING JOSEPH C. WEEKS,  
HERNANDO COUNTY, FLORIDA

**HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 14, 2009*

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Joseph C. Weeks, Sr. This Friday Joe will receive the "2009 Great Brooksvillian of the Year Award". Created in 2002, this award recognizes individuals who have demonstrated a sincere commitment to the history, culture, and economy of the Brooksville community.

Born and raised in Brooksville, Joe temporarily left his hometown to serve his country in World War II and to attend college at the University of Florida. In 1951, upon his graduation, he returned to Brooksville to help his brother run the family business, Weeks Hardware; which has been a Brooksville staple since 1916. To this date, Weeks Hardware is considered the oldest existing business in Hernando County.

Aside from running a successful business, Mr. Weeks is a founding member of two prominent Brooksville organizations; the Brooksville Rotary Club and the Brooksville Downtown Development Organization, the latter of which he served as Vice-President and Treasurer. He also served as Vice-President and Treasurer for the Jaycees and was an active member of the Junior Chamber of Commerce. In recognition of his business successes, he was awarded the Independent Businessman of the year by the Republican Club. Additionally, he holds the unofficial distinction of being the oldest living member of the local American Legion Chapter.

Madam Speaker, Joseph C. Weeks, Sr. has demonstrated steadfast dedication to the Brooksville community. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating him on this momentous occasion.

---

TRIBUTE TO AMELIA BOYNTON

**HON. PARKER GRIFFITH**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 14, 2009*

Mr. GRIFFITH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life of Amelia Platts Boynton. Mrs. Boynton is member of the civil rights group that formulated strategies for nonviolent social resistance in Alabama and is most widely known as an activist and organizer for the march over the Edmond Pettus Bridge in Selma, AL.

Mrs. Boynton was a proud supporter of Dr. Martin Luther King and used her home in Selma as a center for Selma's civil rights battles, which was used by King and his lieutenants, Congressmen and attorneys from around the nation, to plan the demonstrations known as the "Selma to Montgomery Marches".

On March 7, 1965, during a march which later became known as Bloody Sunday, Boynton was viciously attacked. Following that event, her character and courage helped lead to the passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

Mrs. Boynton is Vice Chairwoman of the International Schiller Institute. She is a 98-

year-old author, playwright, speaker and organizer, speaking out publicly for justice, and inspiring people of all ages, nations, and backgrounds.

Madam Speaker, I wish to congratulate Amelia Boynton on a remarkable career and a heroic life and wish her the best as she continues to be an influential civil rights pioneer.

---

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. ADAM H. PUTNAM**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 14, 2009*

Mr. PUTNAM. Madam Speaker, on Tuesday, October 13, 2009, I was not present for 3 recorded votes. Had I been present, I would have voted the following way: roll No. 772—"yea"; roll No. 773—"yea"; roll No. 774—"yea."

---

A TRIBUTE TO THE VISION OF  
CHILDREN FOUNDATION

**HON. DAN BURTON**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 14, 2009*

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Madam Speaker, I rise today to salute the Vision of Children Foundation. The Vision of Children Foundation is an independent, not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to the funding of innovative clinical and translational research into vision disorders and creating effective therapies. The Foundation supports scientists at top universities and academic medical centers worldwide who are involved in the most advanced and promising research.

According to the World Health Organization, globally more than 161 million people are visually impaired, including 1.4 million blind children below age 15. In the United States alone, over 1 million children suffer from vision impairment, a loss of vision that makes it hard or impossible to perform daily tasks without specialized adaptation, and which cannot be corrected to a "normal" level. These children face technological and socially-imposed obstacles that make it difficult to succeed in life.

The challenges of living with visual impairment are all too real for Sam and Vivian Hardage, founders of the Vision of Children Foundation. Their son, Chase, now 20 years old, was diagnosed with ocular albinism (OA) as an infant. OA is an inherited disorder in which the eyes suffer from deficient amount of melanin and pigment, resulting in reduced visual acuity, or Nystagmus, and sensitivity to sunlight. The Hardages were told that there was no cure, and that their son would never be able to play sports or live a normal life. Although Chase's original diagnosis was dire, the reality is that all children with visual impairments have different visual acuities and developmental potential. Many of these individuals, such as Chase, have learned to compensate for their disability and have functional and productive lives.

The Hardages were also stunned to find that no one was doing research into understanding OA, much less treating it. Hereditary vision disorders such as OA, retinitis

pigmentosa, and Ushers syndrome belonged to a group of diseases that were underrepresented and under-funded. It was clear that if there was any hope for finding a cure, funding was needed. In 1990, the Hardages established the Vision of Children Foundation (VOC), with a mission to cure hereditary childhood blindness and vision disorders, and to improve the quality of life of visually impaired individuals and their families. It is the only international, non-profit foundation that funds genetic vision research into ocular albinism and connects affected families all over the world.

Until there is a cure, the VOC works hard to provide educational support and services. Families of the visually impaired often feel isolated and confused, and need support to face day-to-day life. The VOC believes communication between families, educators, healthcare professionals, and researchers who care for these children is critical, and the VOC does all that it can to facilitate the process. The Foundation maintains a worldwide Family Network that provides information and support via constant communication, a biannual newsletter, and an informative Web site. Joining the Family Network enables parents to contact other families who face similar challenges in their geographic region to offer support, and share experiences and local resources and programs. Hundreds of families around the world belong to the VOC Family Network.

The VOC strives to enable thousands of children to have a clear image of the world around them. The foundation continues to gather and share information and tools available to ease the daily challenges that the visually impaired face. For example, VOC developed a computer monitor system designed to accommodate students and adults with low vision. This system works to alleviate the stress and strain that individuals with low vision face when using computer technology. The Foundation donates monitor systems to schools and individuals nationwide.

VOC also partners with book publishers to provide educational books to eye clinics, schools, libraries, doctors' offices, and families, such as the illustrated storybook, "All Children Have Different Eyes." These books help to raise awareness, reduce emotional stress, develop social competencies, improve academic performance, and increase confidence in low vision children.

These efforts to provide support, education and needed assistive resources to children diagnosed with OA have enabled Chase and many others like him to have a more normal and functional life. Chase played varsity football on a championship team and was his high school's first CIF wrestling champion in 28 years. Today, he is a sophomore studying business at Southern Methodist University.

To foster scientific communication and collaboration, VOC hosts a biennial World Symposium on Ocular Albinism and genetic vision disorders. In this forum, the Foundation brings together top vision and genetic eye researchers from around the globe to present and discuss the latest discoveries and research efforts involving OA and related genetic conditions.

This year's World Symposium theme: "Understanding the Pathway—Discovering a Cure" was reflected in each of the presentations. The symposium was highly successful, with researchers agreeing to openly discuss

their latest discoveries and research efforts. Updated results from the successful recent human gene therapy trials provide continued hope for a cure. One of the most important outcomes of the symposium resulted in the formation of an informal, web-based forum for attendees to continue the collaborative relationships that were formed. The Vision of Children Foundation is a leader in fostering these kinds of relationships and helping move science forward.

For eighteen years, the Vision of Children Foundation has been a driving force in the worldwide quest for a cure for genetically caused childhood blindness. Progress and problems are discussed on a regular basis as VOC researchers gather for an invitation only Symposium sponsored by the Vision of Children Foundation. In October 2006, Dr. James Bainbridge of Moorfields Eye Hospital in London attended VOC's European Symposium and described his lab's plan for a human gene therapy trial to cure Leber's Congenital Amaurosis. In March 2008, his team achieved the world's first successful gene therapy trial on a human. Their success was quickly followed by the University of Florida and Children's Hospital in Philadelphia, successfully restoring the vision of nine young adults who were nearly blind. These young people can now see and some can even read lines on an eye chart. All nine patients had the treatment in one eye and all have volunteered to have their other eye treated. I am told that the medical community is equating this discovery to the first heart transplant.

The Vision of Children Foundation is one of the largest sources of non-governmental funding in the world for genetically caused childhood blindness research. The urgent mission of the Vision of Children Foundation is to drive the research that will provide preventions, treatments and cures for children affected by ocular albinism and the entire spectrum of hereditary childhood blindness and vision disorders. The Foundation has invested millions of dollars to support scientific research of diseases of the retina, which cause blindness. I commend the steadfast support of and determination of the Vision of Children Foundation to eradicating genetically caused vision disorders and blindness in children.

---

HONORING THE LIFE OF SPECIALIST PAUL E. ANDERSEN OF SOUTH BEND

**HON. JOE DONNELLY**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 14, 2009*

Mr. DONNELLY of Indiana. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Specialist Paul E. Andersen of the 855th Quartermaster Company based out of South Bend, Indiana, for his dedication and service to the United States of America. A 24-year-veteran of the armed forces, Paul was completing his second tour of duty in Iraq when he was killed in action on October 1, 2009, by indirect fire of enemy forces. Paul risked everything in service to America, and for that we are eternally grateful.

Paul devoted his life to serving our country. He graduated from Buchanan High School in Michigan in 1979 and enlisted in the Army Reserves in 1985. He worked to better our

armed forces, and was prepared to answer the call for duty whenever his country needed him. In 2003 that time arrived, and Paul served his first tour in Iraq.

Upon his return home, he met his beloved wife Linda at the home of a friend. They fell in love and enjoyed listening to country music, watching old movies, and savoring strawberry milkshakes together. Within months, he proposed to her. Three weeks later they were married. Linda fully appreciated and understood the commitment that Paul had to his country. Paul had recently re-enlisted for six more years of duty, but only with the consent and blessing from Linda. When he asked her how she would feel if he opted to redeploy, she told him, "Go ahead." "I knew I married an Army man," Linda said. Her love for Paul was unwavering, as she said of Paul, "He's my world, my life, my friend."

After beginning his second tour in November 2008, Paul had the honorable duty of serving his country with the 855th Quartermaster, QM, Company, from South Bend, Indiana. Paul's mission in Iraq was to provide both shower and laundry services as well as operating a clothing repair, SLCR, shop supporting Coalition forces based in 10 different locations throughout the Iraqi theater. These locations are often dangerous, but despite the adversities the 855th QM Co. successfully accomplished their SLCR mission. Services of the SLCR team provided great contributions to the welfare and morale of the Soldiers they supported. Without their support, the Soldiers would not have been able to perform their duties and accomplish their own combat missions. It was a necessary job that his family and friends admired. Linda was in constant contact with Paul, and he was even allowed to take a leave in August to celebrate their fifth wedding anniversary. Paul had recently been informed that he was due to come home November 4, 2009.

Paul will be remembered as a devoted husband, father and grandfather. As a civilian, Paul worked at a tube and bending company. He loved to tinker with machines, and was notorious among family members for going overboard on the Christmas lights every year. He lived a life full of love and joy. He is survived by his wife; three biological children; three step-children; one biological grandchild; and eight step-grandchildren.

It is my somber duty to honor and remember Paul and a life cut tragically short. I am saddened by the loss to his family, our community and our country. We were all blessed by his presence and diminished by his passing.

---

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 14, 2009*

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, on October 13, 2009, I was unable to cast votes, due to personal reasons. I was not present for roll-call votes 772 and 773. Had I been present, I would have cast a "yea" vote for final passage of H.R. 3689. Also, I would have cast a "yea" vote on final passage of H.R. 3476.



IN HONOR OF GEORGE SMITH

**HON. JOHN H. ADLER**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 14, 2009*

Mr. ADLER of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I would like to congratulate an important member of New Jersey's 3rd District, Mr. George Smith. Mr. Smith, 79, was awarded the Nobel Prize in physics for his work developing technology that is the basis of digital photography.

Mr. Smith worked at Bell Laboratories until his retirement in 1986. He was born in 1930 in White Plains, New York, served in the United States Navy, and briefly studied mathematics before switching to physics. In 1959, he earned his Ph.D. from the University of Chicago. Mr. Smith currently resides in Waretown in Ocean County, NJ.

George Smith was awarded the 2009 Nobel Prize in physics along with colleague Willard Boyle for their work creating an image semiconducting circuit, or charge coupled device, CCD. Their research laid the foundation for digital images and lightning-fast communication by developing fiber-optic cable and the sensor found at the heart of digital cameras. They share their prize with Hong Kong professor Kuen Kao for his work on fiber optics.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in commending Mr. George Smith for his much deserved Nobel Prize. May his dedication and innovative thinking serve as a model for all those who seek to achieve original solutions within their respective fields.

HONORING THOMAS O'BRIEN UPON  
BEING NAMED THE NEW YORK  
STATE PRINCIPAL OF THE YEAR

**HON. STEVE ISRAEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 14, 2009*

Mr. ISRAEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the accomplishments of my constituent, Brentwood High School Principal Thomas O'Brien.

Mr. O'Brien has been recognized as the New York State Principal of the Year by the School Administrators Association of New York State. This award is given annually to a school administrator "who has set the pace, character, and quality of education for the children in his or her school."

Mr. O'Brien has served as an educator for 38 years, 14 in his current position—all within the Brentwood School District. He was recognized for his outstanding work at Brentwood High School, where he worked successfully to move the school from the New York State Department of Education's list of "Schools in Need of Improvement" to the list of "Schools in Good Standing."

I congratulate him on this accomplishment and applaud his long record of contributions to education on Long Island.

REGARDING S. 1707, THE ENHANCING PARTNERSHIP WITH PAKISTAN ACT OF 2009

**HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 14, 2009*

Mr. BERMAN. Madam Speaker, the following is an explanation of S. 1707, the Enhanced Partnership with Pakistan Act of 2009. The final text of the legislation reflects an agreement reached by the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations and the House Committee on Foreign Affairs. The purpose of this Explanatory Statement is to facilitate accurate interpretation of the text and to ensure faithful implementation of its provisions in accordance with the intentions of the legislation.

The core intent of the Enhanced Partnership with Pakistan Act is to demonstrate the American people's long-term commitment to the people of Pakistan. The United States values its friendship with the Pakistani people and honors the great sacrifices made by Pakistani security forces in the fight against extremism, and the legislation reflects the goals shared by our two governments.

The legislation does not seek in any way to compromise Pakistan's sovereignty, impinge on Pakistan's national security interests, or micromanage any aspect of Pakistani military or civilian operations. There are no conditions on Pakistan attached to the authorization of \$7.5 billion in non-military aid. The only requirements on this funding are financial accountability measures that Congress is imposing on the U.S. executive branch, to ensure that this assistance supports programs that most benefit the Pakistani people.

## SUMMARY OF CONGRESSIONAL INTENT

The Enhanced Partnership with Pakistan Act of 2009 (the "Act") establishes a legislative foundation for a strengthened partnership between the United States and Pakistan, based on a shared commitment to improving the living conditions of the people of Pakistan through strengthening democracy and the rule of law, sustainable economic development, and combating terrorism and extremism. It is the intent of Congress to strengthen the long-term people-to-people relationship between the United States and Pakistan by investing directly in the needs of the Pakistani people. This legislation is intended to fortify a lasting partnership with Pakistan based on mutual trust.

The overall level of economic assistance authorized annually by this legislation is tripled over FY 2008 U.S. funding levels, with the bulk of aid intended for projects such as schools, roads, medical clinics, and infrastructure development. The funds directly authorized by this Act—\$1.5 billion in economic and development assistance annually for five years, with a similar amount envisioned for a subsequent five years—place no conditions on the Government of Pakistan. The only requirements are accountability measures placed on the United States executive branch to ensure that the aid directly benefits the Pakistani people.

This Act fully recognizes and respects the independence of Pakistan as a sovereign nation. The purpose of this Act is to forge a closer collaborative relationship between Pakistan and the United States, not to dictate the na-

tional policy or impinge on the sovereignty of Pakistan in any way. Any interpretation of this Act which suggests that the United States does not fully recognize and respect the sovereignty of Pakistan would be directly contrary to Congressional intent.

The certifications in the Act regarding certain limited forms of security assistance are consistent with previous Congressional legislation regarding security assistance to Pakistan and other nations. In all cases, they align with the aims of, and serve to reinforce the publicly-articulated positions of, the democratically-elected Government of Pakistan, and Pakistani military leaders, to combat extremists and militants.

SECTIONS 1-4: STRENGTHENING A RELATIONSHIP  
FOUNDED ON MUTUAL RESPECT

Sections 1-4 establish the framework and context for the legislative provisions that follow. The Findings and the Statement of Principles demonstrate an unequivocal appreciation for the friendship of the Pakistani people, and for the sacrifices made by the Pakistani security forces and people in fighting extremism. The Findings in Section 3 include:

Section 3(1): "Congress finds the following: The people of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and the United States share a long history of friendship and comity, and the interests of both nations are well-served by strengthening and deepening this friendship."

Section 3(4): "Pakistan is a major non-NATO ally of the United States and has been a valuable partner in the battle against al Qaeda and the Taliban, but much more remains to be accomplished by both nations. The struggle against al Qaeda, the Taliban, and affiliated terrorist groups has led to the deaths of several thousand Pakistani civilians and members of the security forces of Pakistan over the past seven years."

The Statement of Principles in Section 4 include:

Section 4(1): "Pakistan is a critical friend and ally to the United States, both in times of strife and in times of peace, and the two countries share many common goals, including combating terrorism and violent radicalism, solidifying democracy and rule of law in Pakistan, and promoting the social and economic development of Pakistan."

Section 4(4): "The United States supports Pakistan's struggle against extremist elements and recognizes the profound sacrifice made by Pakistan in the fight against terrorism, including the loss of more than 1,900 soldiers and police since 2001 in combat with al Qaeda, the Taliban, and other extremist and terrorist groups."

TITLE I: DEMOCRATIC, ECONOMIC AND DEVELOPMENT  
ASSISTANCE FOR PAKISTAN

This Title contains the core intention of this legislation: To make a long-term commitment to the people of Pakistan by tripling non-military assistance, free of any conditions on the Pakistani government. The purposes set forth for the \$7.5 billion that is authorized here are all intended to reflect the expressed priorities of the Pakistani people. Specifically, Section 101(a) provides that:

"The President is authorized to provide assistance to Pakistan to support the consolidation of democratic institutions; to support the expansion of rule of law, build the capacity of government institutions, and promote respect for internationally-recognized human rights; to promote economic freedoms and sustainable economic development; to support investment in people, including those displaced in on-going counterinsurgency operations; and to strengthen public diplomacy."

The funds authorized under Title I are intended to be used to work with and benefit Pakistani organizations. Specifically, Section 101(c)(3) provides that:

“The President is encouraged, as appropriate, to utilize Pakistani firms and community and local nongovernmental organizations in Pakistan, including through host country contracts, and to work with local leaders to provide assistance under this section”

Section 102(a) makes clear that there are no conditions placed on the Pakistani government for delivery of the \$7.5 billion in assistance. The only accounting requirements are of the U.S. executive branch.

Section 102(d) makes clear that a long term commitment to increased civilian assistance for the people of Pakistan is envisioned by stating that it is the desire of Congress that the amounts authorized for fiscal years 2010–2014 shall continue from fiscal years 2015–2019.

Section 103(b) authorizes establishment of field offices for Inspectors General to audit and oversee expenditure of this assistance. It is the intent of Congress that such offices would be established in consultation with appropriate Pakistani authorities for the purpose of ensuring optimal management of resources.

#### TITLE II: SECURITY ASSISTANCE FOR PAKISTAN

The intention of this section is to strengthen cooperative efforts to confront extremism. The purposes of security assistance are intended to be completely cooperative, and reflect the intention that such assistance be used to support Pakistan in achieving its stated objectives in winning the ongoing counterinsurgency, defeating terrorist organizations that threaten Pakistan, and strengthening democratic institutions. Specifically, Section 201(1) “Purposes of Assistance” states that:

“The purposes of assistance under this title are—

(1) to support Pakistan’s paramount national security need to fight and win the ongoing counterinsurgency within its borders in accordance with its national security interests;

(2) to work with the Government of Pakistan to improve Pakistan’s border security and control and help prevent any Pakistani territory from being used as a base or conduit for terrorist attacks in Pakistan, or elsewhere;

(3) to work in close cooperation with the Government of Pakistan to coordinate action against extremist and terrorist targets; and

(4) to help strengthen the institutions of democratic governance . . . .”

The provisions applied to certain limited portions of U.S. security assistance in Section 203 are intended to be fully in line with the existing policy of the Government of Pakistan. Specifically, Section 203(c)(1) reflects our understanding that cooperative efforts currently being undertaken by the Governments of Pakistan and the United States to combat proliferation will continue.

Section 203(c)(2) reflects the intent that U.S. security assistance is used in furtherance of the purposes set forth in Section 201 above, e.g., ensuring Pakistan’s security, winning the counterinsurgency within Pakistan, preventing territory from being used for terrorist attacks in Pakistan and elsewhere, and coordinating action against extremist and terrorist targets. This section requires a certification by the United States executive branch

to Congress regarding the efforts and progress made in achieving these purposes, and includes a series of factors to be considered collectively by the Secretary of State in making this assessment.

Section 203(c)(3) includes a provision intended to express support for democratic institutions in Pakistan.

Section 203(e) contains a waiver making clear that this certification could be waived if the determination is made by the Secretary of State in the interests of national security that this was necessary to continue such assistance.

#### TITLE III. STRATEGY, ACCOUNTABILITY, MONITORING, AND OTHER PROVISIONS.

The intention of this section is to ensure that there is transparency and accountability in the way authorized assistance is spent. This Title requires the U.S. executive branch to provide various reports to Congress designed to demonstrate that funds are being used for the purposes set forth in Title I and Title II; there are no requirements on the Government of Pakistan.

Section 301 “Strategy Reports” requires three reports from the United States executive branch that detail a plan for how U.S. assistance to Pakistan will be spent and evaluated and a regional security plan for how the United States can best work with its partners for “effective counterinsurgency and counterterrorism efforts.”

Section 302 “Monitoring Reports” reflects the need for ongoing consultation between the U.S. executive branch and Congress on monitoring U.S. assistance to Pakistan, including a “Semi-Annual Monitoring Report” where:

The Secretary of State, in consultation with the Secretary of Defense, shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report that describes the assistance provided under this Act during the preceding 180-day period.

The many requirements of this report are intended as a way for Congress to assess how effectively U.S. funds are being spent, shortfalls in U.S. resources that hinder the use of such funds, and steps the Government of Pakistan has taken to advance our mutual interests in countering extremism and nuclear proliferation and strengthening democratic institutions.

There is no intent to, and nothing in this Act in any way suggests that there should be, any U.S. role in micromanaging internal Pakistani affairs, including the promotion of Pakistani military officers or the internal operations of the Pakistani military.

The reports envisioned in this Section are not binding on Pakistan, and require only the provision of information by the executive branch to the U.S. Congress, in furtherance of the Act’s stated purpose of strengthening civilian institutions and the democratically-elected Government of Pakistan.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. XAVIER BECERRA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 14, 2009*

Mr. BECERRA. Madam Speaker, I was unavoidably detained last evening and missed rollcall 773. If present, I would have voted “yea.”

#### IRAN SANCTIONS ENABLING ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

**HON. MARK STEVEN KIRK**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 13, 2009*

Mr. KIRK. Mr. Speaker, as the lead Republican sponsor of H.R. 1327, the Iran Sanctions Enabling Act, I rise in strong support and urge my colleagues to pass this bill.

We know that certain international corporations still invest billions of dollars in Iran’s energy sector—in effect, subsidizing the regime’s nuclear program. If states and local municipalities want to divest public funds from investments in such companies, the Federal Government should support their decisions.

The Iran Sanctions Enabling Act would authorize state and local governments to divest from firms with investments of \$20 million or more in Iran’s energy industry. Arizona, California, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Louisiana, Maryland, Michigan, Indiana, New Jersey, Colorado, New York, Ohio, Texas, and Washington have all enacted some form of divestment laws. The Iran Sanctions Enabling Act would encourage more states and local communities to take similar action.

With Iranian uranium enrichment accelerating—and the recent disclosure of a secret uranium enrichment site at Qom—the window for effective diplomacy is starting to close. To avoid conflict, we must pass effective sanctions and provide our diplomats with greater leverage. H.R. 1327 is a good first step—but it cannot be the last. I urge Speaker Pelosi and Chairman Berman to move H.R. 2194, the Iran Refined Petroleum Sanctions Act, to the floor for immediate consideration. This legislation, modeled after my Iran Sanctions Enhancement Act of 2007 and Iran Diplomatic Enhancement Act of 2009, would extend current sanctions to companies that supply gasoline to Iran. Iran’s dependence on foreign gasoline remains its greatest weakness—and offers the greatest hope for diplomacy to succeed.

In addition, the President must take steps to fully implement current law. The Iran Sanctions Act was enacted in 1996 as an important measure to deny Iran the resources to further its nuclear program and to support terrorist organizations. According to the law, a firm that invests more than \$20 million in Iran’s energy sector is determined to be a violator, and is subject to a range of sanctions. The Congressional Research Service has identified more than 20 firms that likely violate the Iran Sanctions Act. Nevertheless, no Administration has ever enforced this law. I urge my colleagues to sign the Kirk-Klein letter to President Obama urging him to enforce the Iran Sanctions Act without delay.

#### EARMARK DECLARATION

**HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 14, 2009*

Mr. DUNCAN. Madam Speaker, consistent with House Republican Earmark Standards, I am submitting the following earmark disclosure information for project requests that I

made and which were included within H.R. 2997, "Making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2010, and for other purposes."

Requesting Member: Congressman JOHN DUNCAN

Account: National Institute of Food and Agriculture—SRG

Project Amount: \$1,000,000

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: University of Tennessee, 114 Morgan Hall, 2621 Morgan Circle, Knoxville, Tennessee 37996

Description of Request: This funding will be used for producing crop plants that can be used directly as early-warning sentinels for the detection of plant diseases.

# IN RECOGNITION OF THE 100TH BIRTHDAY OF ANNE FORRESTER LYBRAND

## HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 14, 2009

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I would like to request the House's attention today to pay recognition to the special life of Anne Forrester Lybrand of Oxford, Alabama.

Mrs. Lybrand was born on November 11, 1906 in Talladega County. She was married to Mr. Eule Lybrand in 1928 and was blessed with two sons, Eule Lybrand, Jr. and Fred Ray Lybrand.

Mrs. Lybrand and her husband owned their own business and she also worked as a City Clerk for the City of Oxford. She has been an active member of First United Methodist Church of Oxford since 1946 where she taught Sunday school, and is past President of the United Methodist Women's Group.

She also has been involved with Interfaith Ministries and is a Charter Member of the Oxford "Meals on Wheels" program.

On November 7th, her friends and family will celebrate her birthday at her church. Today I would like to wish Mrs. Anne Forrester Lybrand a very Happy 100th Birthday.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. NEIL ABERCROMBIE

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 14, 2009

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Madam Speaker, I regret that I missed rollcall votes nos. 772–774. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on all rollcall votes.

## CONGRATULATING ACT, INC., ON ITS 50TH ANNIVERSARY

### HON. DAVID LOESACK

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 14, 2009

Mr. LOESACK. Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize and congratulate ACT, Inc., on its 50th anniversary, and 50 years of ac-

complishments. ACT, originally American College Testing Program, was founded in Iowa's first state capitol in Iowa City, IA, in 1959. The goal was to help all students who wanted to attend college find the best match for their interests and abilities and to help colleges and universities place students into appropriate freshman-level classes. On November 7, 1959 about 75,000 students took the first ACT Assessment; in the high school graduating class of 2009 nearly 1.5 million students—45 percent of all high school graduates in our nation took the ACT.

While ACT started with a single focus, the organization now conducts research and offers a broad array of programs and services to help provide solutions to many of the complex education and workforce problems facing our nation and those abroad. ACT, with its educational knowledge, has expanded to help bridge the barriers that remain in accessing the globalized marketplace for millions of individuals around the globe. Through local partnerships in 13 countries ACT is working to improve the educational opportunities for the students and help teach English as a second language.

I am honored to represent many of the employees of ACT here in the U.S. House of Representatives. I congratulate them and all of the ACT employees, directors, and members of state organizations on their 50-year history of helping people achieve education and workplace success.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. MICHAEL E. CAPUANO

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 14, 2009

Mr. CAPUANO. Madam Speaker, yesterday I missed several rollcall votes, and I wish to state how I would have voted had I been present: rollcall No. 772—"yea," rollcall No. 773—"yea," rollcall No. 774—"yea."

## TRIBUTE TO W. FRANK JONES

### HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 14, 2009

Mr. CLYBURN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a good friend and an important public servant. W. Frank Jones recently retired after 14 years as Executive Director of the Marion County Economic Development Commission. His leadership and devotion will certainly be missed.

Frank Jones was born in Marion County in the farming community of Gapway. Although he loved growing up on a farm, Frank knew early on that he didn't want to follow his parents, Ernest F. Jones and Nina Brown Jones, into the family business.

After graduating from Mullins High School, Frank enlisted in his local National Guard unit in December 1953. On October 1957, upon graduation from Palmetto Military Academy, he was appointed an armor officer assigned to the 1st Battalion, 263rd Armor in the South Carolina Army National Guard. He served in this battalion through December 1982, with as-

signments ranging from Company Commander to Battalion Executive Officer and Battalion Commander. From December 1982 through March 1986, he was assigned to the State Area Command, where he served as Deputy Commander, Detachment 1 (Troop Command) from June 1983 to September 1984. He became Deputy Commander of the 218th Heavy Separate Brigade in March 1986.

Frank received numerous federal and state awards and decorations during his 40 years of service to the National Guard. He eventually retired from the Army National Guard after he rose to the rank of Brigadier General in the Army National Guard where he commanded the 3rd Brigade of the historic 1st Infantry Division.

General Jones also demonstrated his commitment to serving his community in other ways. From 1966 until 1982, he served on the Mullins City Council and was Mayor pro tem in 1981–1982. Professionally, he pursued a career in banking receiving degrees from the South Carolina Bankers School, the Louisiana State Graduate School of Banking, the Commercial Lending School of the University of Oklahoma, and the State University of New York at Albany. He went to work for Davis National Bank of Mullins, and in 1981, he became the bank's President and CEO, a position he held for 13 years. Frank decided to embark on another career as Executive Director of the Marion County Economic Development Commission. He also furthered his education by completing an economic development course at Georgia State University in 1995.

Frank's tenure at the Commission was marked by difficult circumstances. Marion County historically had an agricultural-based economy. With the decline in tobacco farming, the county became a hub for textile manufacturing. Subsequently the textile industry suffered big losses as jobs were moved overseas and plants were closed leaving large unemployment in the county.

Frank did a tremendous job attracting diverse smaller industries to the county, which helps protect against the devastation the county suffered when its two previous economic engines collapsed. He also grew Marion County Progress, an organization made up of local business leaders that help drive economic development in the area, from a handful of people to members.

Throughout his life, Frank has remained connected to his community. He is a member of Mullins First Baptist Church where he serves as Treasurer, teacher of adult men's Sunday School, and Deacon. He is a member of the Mullins Rotary Club, and is a past President. He has also served as Chairman of the Board of Visitors at Francis Marion University, and is a past Director of the S.C. Bankers Association. Frank is a recipient of the Order of the Palmetto, the highest civilian honor bestowed by the Governor of South Carolina.

He is married to Joann McCumber Jones. The couple has two children Charles Jones and Karen Grice, both of Marion, and five grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating Frank Jones on his retirement and thanking him for his years of service to Marion County, the State of South Carolina and our nation. He has dedicated his life to helping his community and it is a much better place because of his

tremendous contributions. I wish Frank well in retirement, and know he will remain an active part of the Marion County community.

#### EARMARK DECLARATION

### HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 14, 2009*

Mr. DUNCAN. Madam Speaker, consistent with House Republican Earmark Standards, I am submitting the following earmark disclosure information for project requests that I made and which were included within H.R. 2997, "Making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2010, and for other purposes."

Requesting Member: Congressman JOHN DUNCAN

Account: National Institute of Food and Agriculture—SRG

Project Amount: \$1,000,000

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: University of Tennessee, 114 Morgan Hall, 2621 Morgan Circle, Knoxville, Tennessee 37996

Description of Request: This project would entail the ARS at Knoxville working in cooperation with University of Tennessee scientists in improving plant carbon production from atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> and the sequestration of the carbon in plants.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. JOHN H. ADLER

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 14, 2009*

Mr. ADLER of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 775 had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

#### TRIBUTE TO TOM RICHARDSON

### HON. PARKER GRIFFITH

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 14, 2009*

Mr. GRIFFITH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the career of Dr. Tom Richardson. Dr. Richardson is the Chief Scientist and Technical Director at the Missile and Space Intelligence Center in Redstone Arsenal, Alabama.

Tom began his career at MSIC in 1974 working primarily in the areas of sensor data analysis, weapon systems stimulations, and analysis methodologies. Over his tenure, he has held supervisory duties for several organizations involved with analyses of air defense, and theater and strategies ballistic missile defense systems.

Dr. Richardson has received the DIA Director's Award for Exceptional Civilian Service and the National Military Intelligence Association John T. Hughes Award. His leadership and service to the Defense Intelligence Agency has been exceptional and he has represented North Alabama well.

Madam Speaker, I wish to congratulate Dr. Tom Richardson on a phenomenal career and wish him continued success.

#### EARMARK DECLARATION

### HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 14, 2009*

Mr. SIMPSON. Madam Speaker, in accordance with the policies and standards put forth by the House Appropriations Committee and the GOP Leadership, I submit a list of the congressionally directed projects I requested in my home state of Idaho that are contained in the Conference Report to accompany H.R. 2997, the FY2010 Agriculture Appropriations bill.

Project Name: Aquaculture Research Initiative

Amount Received: \$529,000

Account: USDA/CSREES

Recipient: University of Idaho

Recipient's Street Address: 875 Perimeter Drive, Moscow, ID 83844

Description: Research and development of strains of barley for the production of high-value protein concentrates from barley and oats that can be used as fish feed. Increasingly, fish that are consumed world wide originate from aquaculture. This increase has taxed global supplies of marine protein and oil traditionally used in aquafeeds resulting in record prices for these commodities. Idaho is a leader in the national aquaculture industry, producing over 70% of the nation's commercially grown rainbow trout and generating \$100 million per year. Funding would support innovative research to develop new ways of addressing problems in the industry.

Project Name: Barley for Rural Development

Amount Received: \$547,000

Account: USDA/CSREES

Recipient: University of Idaho

Recipient's Street Address: 875 Perimeter Drive, Moscow, ID 83844

Description: Funding for this program would support research directed at the continued development of improved malt, feed, cellulosic ethanol and food barley varieties for growers and value added end-users in rural Idaho, Montana, and North Dakota communities. This research is starting to expand and meet market opportunities, addressing the critical need of growers in production agriculture to increase economic yield, enhance domestic and international market access, improve production technologies, better compete with Canadian imports and reduce dependence on government subsidies. Research supported by this project will increase the manufacture and sale of value-added barley products (malt, beer, fuel, food, livestock) in these states, having a substantial positive impact on their economies, supporting jobs, generating business activity, and federal, state, and local tax revenue. Maintenance of the strength of barely in the Idaho economy requires continual efforts to improve crop quality and productivity. This can only be accomplished by investing in strong research programs that keep the industry at the forefront.

Project Name: COOL Season Legume Research

Amount Received: \$350,000

Account: USDA/CSREES

Recipient: University of Idaho

Recipient's Street Address: 875 Perimeter Drive, Moscow, ID 83844

Description: This program is an aggressive cooperative research program between the USDA, the University of Idaho, and the University of Washington that seeks new, high yielding, high quality, nutritious dry pea, lentil, and chickpea varieties to meet producer and consumer needs. This research focuses on the breeding of new, superior varieties of legumes; management of nematodes, insects, plant diseases and weeds that can limit production; and reduction of soil erosion and water degradation associated with production, as well as the development of value-added new products. The technology being generated through the research is essential for the pea, lentil, and chickpea industries to remain competitive and profitable. Funding would be provided to the University of Idaho through the USDA ARS facility located at 29603 U of I Lane, Parma, Idaho 83660.

Project Name: Greater Yellowstone Interagency Brucellosis Committee

Amount Received: \$605,000

Account: USDA/APHIS

Recipient: Idaho State Department of Agriculture

Recipient's Street Address: 2270 Old Penitentiary Road, Boise, ID 83712

Description: Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming are each required by law to manage brucellosis-infected wildlife within their borders in order to prevent the spread of brucellosis to non-infected wildlife, cattle, or domestic bison. The Committee is coordinating with federal, state, and private actions in eliminating brucellosis from wildlife in the Greater Yellowstone Area and preventing transmission of this disease from wildlife to livestock. The funding will be used to develop and implement brucellosis herd unit management plans; to perform functions and duties of Idaho relative to the Greater Yellowstone Interagency Brucellosis Committee; to conduct brucellosis prevention, surveillance, control and eradication activities in Idaho and the Greater Yellowstone Area.

Project Name: Increasing Shelf-Life of Agriculture Commodities

Amount Received: \$603,000

Account: USDA/CSREES

Recipient: University of Idaho

Recipient's Street Address: 875 Perimeter Drive, Moscow, ID 83844

Description: In order to prevent serious food safety issues, this project will fund research and development of bio-electronic sensors that can detect the presence of microbial pathogens in food and food products. Preventative detection and treatment at the agricultural commodity level and fast, accurate detection of biological pathogens and dangerous food toxins is an important element for ensuring safety and shelf life. The research being conducted in this area at the University of Idaho will advance and expand previous work on biosensor systems to further enhance preventative detection and treatment of biological pathogens and dangerous food toxins.

Project Name: Nez Perce Bio-Control Center

Amount Received: \$176,000

Account: USDA/APHIS

Recipient: Nez Perce Tribe Bio-Control Center

Recipient's Street Address: 102 Agency Road, Lapwai, ID 83540

Description: The Nez Perce Bio-Control Center is authorized by the Noxious Weed Control and Eradication Act of 2004 and manages and establishes nurseries to increase biological control organism availability, distribute biological control organisms, monitor their impacts, and provide an increased number of annual technology transfer workshops to Cooperative Weed Management Areas and other landowners and managers regionally. This funding will continue the partnership between USDA and the Nez Perce Tribe to maximize the effectiveness of implementing a complete bio-control of weeds program in an Integrated Weed Management strategy. The Center will increase the availability of agents for landowners and managers throughout the region. Biological control offers long-term management of invasive weeds and can be used with other integrated pest management approaches.

Project Name: Potato Cyst Nematode Research

Amount Received: \$349,000

Account: USDA/CSREES

Recipient: University of Idaho

Recipient's Street Address: 875 Perimeter Drive, Moscow, ID 83844

Description: This funding would be used by the University of Idaho for research and development of means to eradicate and better protect the Idaho potato crop from the soil-borne pathogen potato cyst nematode, hardened nematode bodies filled with eggs which can persist in the soil for up to 25 years. Current eradication depends upon methyl bromide, which is not totally effective and which may be banned because of its ozone depleting properties, as well as other chemicals which are even less effective and several of which may also be banned. The funds will be used to maximize the efficiency of methyl bromide while it is available and develop new "green" replacement eradicates (such as green manure or biologically derived nematicides) and procedures (advance hatching frequency), as well as to improve planting material screening procedures and to study plant-vector-virus relationships, which may also lead to new ways to fight potato viruses. Previous funding established the groundwork and prepared the University of Idaho to fully implement the needed research. This project will work in concert with the ongoing USDA eradication program by providing new methods of treatment. This crop pest can result in 80% yield reductions and has negatively affected agricultural trade. There is a good chance that if this threat is addressed with adequate research and treatment it can be eliminated.

Project Name: Small Fruit Research, ID, OR, WA

Amount Received: \$307,000

Account: USDA/CSREES

Recipient: University of Idaho

Recipient's Street Address: 875 Perimeter Drive, Moscow, ID 83844

Description: The Small Fruits Initiative-Plant Improvement project will build upon the strengths of existing cooperative research programs aligned through the Northwest Center for Small Fruits Research. This ongoing tri-state program supports the development of small fruits as an alternative agriculture crop in the Pacific Northwest. The funding will strengthen existing programs throughout the region and add key programs to fill in critical gaps that are not met by the existing infra-

structure associated with the Center, providing key resources for Idaho scientists to address problems that negatively impact the emerging berry, grape, and wine industries in the Northwest.

Project Name: STEEP IV—Water Quality in the Northwest

Amount Received: \$444,000

Account: USDA/CSREES

Recipient: University of Idaho

Recipient's Street Address: 875 Perimeter Drive, Moscow, ID 83844

Description: Soil erosion affects 10 million acres of cropland in the Inland Pacific Northwest, reducing farm productivity. STEEP is a coordinated research and technology transfer program designed to develop and implement erosion control practices for agriculture. Emerging environmental and human health concerns also require control of erosion and other environmental impacts of agriculture. New strategies and cropping systems for the protection of soil, water, and air resources are being developed and assessed through collaborative research conducted by scientists in the Pacific Northwest. The STEEP program continues to provide Pacific Northwest farmers and supporting agribusiness entities the new conservation technologies, tools, and understand to meet with evolving demands of agriculture, the environment, and Pacific Northwest residents.

Project Name: Tri-State Predatory Control

Amount Received: \$926,000

Account: USDA/APHIS

Recipient: USDA Animal Plant Health Inspection Service

Recipient's Street Address: 9134 West Blackeagle Drive, Boise, ID 83709

Description: This project would continue assistance to Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming to control wolves and other predators. The Yellowstone wolf population has reached levels 3 to 4 times the initial recovery goals, leading to a delisting from the ESA earlier this year for the wolves in Idaho and Montana and leaving states responsible for managing the increasing wolf populations. As a result, ranchers are facing increasing threats from these predators. The continuation of this program will ensure that the tri-state area will be able to address predator management.

Project Name: Northwest Center for Small Fruit Research

Amount Received: \$275,000

Account: USDA/ARS

Recipient: University of Idaho

Recipient's Street Address: 875 Perimeter Drive, Moscow, ID 83844

Description: The Small Fruits Initiative-Plant Improvement project will build upon the strengths of existing cooperative research programs aligned through the Northwest Center for Small Fruits Research. This ongoing tri-state program supports the development of small fruits as an alternative agriculture crop in the Pacific Northwest. The funding will strengthen existing programs throughout the region and add key programs to fill in critical gaps that are not met by the existing infrastructure associated with the Center, providing key resources for Idaho scientists to address problems that negatively impact the emerging berry, grape, and wine industries in the Northwest. Funding would be provided to the University of Idaho through the USDA ARS facility located at 29603 U of I Lane, Parma, Idaho 83660. Biological control offers long-term man-

agement of invasive weeds and can be used with other integrated pest management approaches.

I appreciate the opportunity to provide a list of congressionally-directed projects I requested that are included in the Conference Report to accompany H.R. 2997, the Agriculture Appropriations Act for FY2010 and provide an explanation of my support for them.

#### NEW YORK TIMES WEIGHTS POLL IN FAVOR OF DEMOCRATS

#### HON. LAMAR SMITH

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 14, 2009

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Madam Speaker, the New York Times reported recently that President Obama has "considerable political strength."

The Times' based this statement on its own poll, which found the President has an approval rating of 56 percent—a higher number than any other poll has found recently.

One reason for this might be that the Times weighted the poll in favor of Democrats.

Among those who actually responded to the poll, there were more Democrats than Republicans by 6 percentage points.

But when the Times finished computing the results, they had increased the gap to an unreasonable and inexplicable 15 percentage points.

With so many more Democrats in the sample, it should come as no surprise that the President's approval rating is a higher than other polls have found.

The Times would do well to show more balance in their polling—and their reporting.

SUPPORTING H. RES. 800, H. RES. 816, AND H. RES. 810, EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES AND SOLIDARITY WITH THE CITIZENS OF THE PHILIPPINES, AMERICAN SAMOA AND SAMOA, AND INDONESIA IN THE AFTERMATH OF DEVASTATING NATURAL DISASTERS

#### HON. AL GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 14, 2009

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, I extend my support for H. Res. 800, H. Res. 816, and H. Res. 810, which express sympathy for the citizens of the Philippines dealing with Tropical Storm Ketsana and Typhoon Parma, for the people of American Samoa and Samoa in the aftermath of an earthquake and tsunami, and for the citizens of Indonesia after a devastating earthquake.

On September 26, 2009, Tropical Storm Ketsana made landfall in the Philippines. Rain and flooding submerged 80 percent of the capital city, Manila, took 277 lives, forced 135,470 families into evacuation centers, and destroyed over 4,500 homes. Typhoon Parma hit the islands several days later on October 2, 2009 and caused further damage.

On September 29, 2009, a powerful earthquake struck below the ocean 140 miles

southwest of American Samoa and 125 miles south of Samoa. The earthquake, which registered 8.3 on the Richter scale, produced waves 20 feet in height that penetrated one mile inland, sweeping away homes and cars.

On September 30, 2009, 700 lives were lost to a 7.6 magnitude earthquake originating in West Sumatra, Indonesia, which also destroyed 83,700 homes, 200 public buildings, 285 schools and other infrastructure.

In the wake of these recent events and on behalf of the 70,000 Asian American and Pacific Islanders living in the 9th Congressional District of Texas, including the 6,000 Filipino Americans that I represent, I extend my sincerest condolences to the families whose loved ones were lost in these tragedies. As the Philippines, American Samoa, Samoa, and Indonesia rebuild homes and communities destroyed in the disasters, we recognize the heroic rescue efforts mounted by international aid organizations and foreign governments, including American forces sent by President Obama. Let these events remind us of our shared humanity and concern for those struggling in the face of adversity.

Americans across the country continue to watch the recovery efforts being undertaken in the Philippines, American Samoa, Samoa, and Indonesia. We stand ready to assist our fellow brothers and sisters in need at a minute's notice, and we keep you every day in our thoughts and prayers.

I urge my colleagues to support H. Res. 800, H. Res. 816, and H. Res. 810.

#### HONORING THE MADISON COUNTY ROTARY CLUB FOR THEIR EFFORTS TO BUILD ACCESS RAMP FOR DISABLED PERSONS IN THEIR COMMUNITY

**HON. PAUL C. BROWN**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 14, 2009*

Mr. BROWN of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to share with my colleagues and express my deepest appreciation for a great accomplishment in community service in my district.

On Saturday, October 17, 2009, the Madison County Rotary Club will be building their four-hundredth handicap-accessible ramp. As a Rotarian myself, I know that service projects like this allow thousands of disabled Americans to live more independent lives each and every day.

Since 1990, Madison County Rotarians have completed numerous service projects to benefit their community. The club consists of more than 60 members from very diverse professional backgrounds, and over the past 13 years, they have collectively built enough ramps to stretch over two miles if placed end to end.

These folks do not volunteer their time and resources to build these ramps for public recognition, nor do they profit from their work. In fact, they have given away over \$600,000 worth of labor and supplies through their ramp-building effort. Instead, these wonderful folks see themselves as a part of something much bigger: an organization of 1.2 million members divided into over 33,000 clubs—all over the world.

Rotary International operates under the motto "Service above Self." This service organization works all across the world to make people's lives better. It combats hunger, improves health and sanitation, provides education and job training, promotes peace, and is working to totally eradicate polio.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the Madison County Rotary Club, its dedicated members, and the goals that all Rotarians are striving to achieve. Their accomplishments make the world a better place every day, and they deserve our heartfelt thanks.

#### TRIBUTE TO AMERICA'S GOLD STAR MOTHERS

**HON. C.W. BILL YOUNG**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 14, 2009*

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition that September 27, 2009, was designated as "Gold Star Mother's Day." It is fitting that we recognize the American Gold Star Mothers, whose sons and daughters have died in defense of the ideals of individual liberty. They should be honored and offered respect and gratitude for their personal sacrifice.

Gold Star Mother's Day is intended to honor women who deserve special recognition and gratitude for their tremendous personal loss on behalf of our country.

During the early days of World War I, a Blue Star was used to represent each Soldier in military service of the United States, and as the war progressed and Soldiers were killed or wounded in combat or died from wounds or disease, a Gold Star superimposed over the Blue Star designated the loss of these individuals. This tradition recognized Soldiers for their ultimate sacrifice to our country and the Gold Star offered families an outward symbol by which to honor the loss of a loved one.

In 1928, the Gold Star tradition was formalized in Washington, D.C., by a group of mothers who had lost sons and daughters in service to their country and met to form the American Gold Star Mothers organization. This organization is a nondenominational, non-profitable and nonpolitical organization that is dedicated in supporting veterans, military families, and Service Members returning from our present day battlefields.

In 1936, President Franklin Roosevelt issued a proclamation which recognized Gold Star Mothers for their strength and inspiration to this country.

Madam Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to appreciate the services rendered to the United States by the mothers of America who have strengthened and inspired our Nation throughout history and that we honor the Gold Star Mothers of America for their courage and their strength.

#### HONORING HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

**HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 14, 2009*

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Hispanic Heritage Month,

which runs from September 15, 2009 through October 15, 2009.

The earliest Spanish settlers arrived in the United States over 400 years ago. And since then, millions of Hispanic men and women have immigrated to the United States from Mexico, Cuba, Puerto Rico, and other Caribbean nations, as well as Central America, South America, and Spain. These brave men, women, and children have come in search of freedom, peace, and opportunity.

The U.S. Census Bureau currently lists Hispanic Americans as the largest ethnic minority within the entire United States with a population of 46,900,000 people, making up fifteen percent of our nation's total population. Hispanics also comprise the largest ethnic minority group in 20 States including my home State of New Jersey.

Hispanics are a vital cog to our economy and own over 2.5 million small businesses in the United States, which have generated more than \$400 billion in revenue. Among these businesses, Latina-owned entities are growing quickly and are currently generating more than \$45 billion in sales. Hispanic businesses are rapidly expanding growing 31% from between 1997 and 2002, over three times the national average during that period.

Within my own Congressional District, the Morris County Hispanic Chamber of Commerce is a thriving group that has been recognized with distinction. Last year the Morris County Hispanic Chamber of Commerce was recognized as the best medium Hispanic Chamber in our region, and for nearly thirty five years, the community has been served ably by the Morris County Organization for Hispanic Affairs.

Hispanic Americans have displayed great valor in warfare over the course of our nation's history fighting in every war in the history of the United States. There are over 1,100,000 Hispanic veterans of the United States Armed Forces, with forty-three of them winning the Medal of Honor, the highest military distinction in the United States.

Hispanic Americans have served our nation as dedicated public servants, holding positions at the highest level of government, including Cabinet Secretaries, Senators, Supreme Court Justices, and Members of the House of Representatives.

Madam Speaker, Hispanic Americans have contributed greatly to our country for hundreds of years, and are worthy of recognition. I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring Hispanic Heritage Month.

#### SERVICE MEMBERS HOME OWNERSHIP TAX ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

**HON. DANIEL B. MAFFEI**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 7, 2009*

Mr. MAFFEI. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise in support of H.R. 3590, the Service Members Home Ownership Tax Act. It is important that the brave men and women currently serving our country have an opportunity to take advantage of programs such as the First-Time Homebuyer Tax Credit. I was proud to introduce similar legislation with the same goal of extending the opportunity for service men and



women to take advantage of the tax credit for twelve months. I ask that all my colleagues Hon. support the Service Members Home Ownership Tax Act.

Currently, there are approximately 190,000 U.S. troops fighting wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. They are making the ultimate sacrifice for their country. These brave men and women are putting their lives on the line every single day, and we, in Congress, must do all in our power to ensure that they are not ex-

cluded from participating in programs like the First-time Homebuyer Tax Credit because they are overseas.

In fact, a constituent of mine called my office to ask if anything was going to be done to ensure his son, a soldier, could benefit from the First-time Homebuyer Tax Credit. While these brave men and women are sacrificing to serve our country, we must ensure that they can take advantage of the same economic recovery resources the rest of us are enjoying.

The Service Members Home Ownership Tax Act also makes sure that members of the armed services are not required to pay back the tax credit if they are forced to sell their home because they have been deployed to a different location. This legislation, like mine, shows Congress's commitment to our troops, and I encourage other Member's to join me in supporting the Service Members Home Ownership Tax Act.

## SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place, and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled, and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, October 15, 2009 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED  
OCTOBER 20

9:30 a.m.

Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the state of the nation's housing market.

SD-538

10 a.m.

Finance

To hold hearings to examine S. 1631, to reauthorize customs facilitation and trade enforcement functions and programs.

SD-215

Judiciary

Administrative Oversight and the Courts Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine medical debt, focusing on bankruptcy reform.

SD-226

10:30 a.m.

Small Business and Entrepreneurship

To hold hearings to examine health care solutions for America's small businesses.

Room to be announced

2:30 p.m.

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Susan Tsui Grundmann, of Virginia, to be Chairman, and Anne Marie Wagner, of Virginia, to be a Member, both of the Merit Systems Protection Board.

SD-342

Intelligence

To receive a closed briefing on certain intelligence matters from officials of the intelligence community.

S-407, Capitol

## OCTOBER 21

9:30 a.m.

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

To hold hearings to examine H1N1 flu, focusing on monitoring the nation's response.

SD-342

Veterans' Affairs

To hold hearings to examine S. 977, to amend title 38, United States Code, to

provide improved benefits for veterans who are former prisoners of war, S. 1109, to provide veterans with individualized notice about available benefits, to streamline application processes or the benefits, S. 1118, to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for an increase in the amount of monthly dependency and indemnity compensation payable to surviving spouses by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, S. 1155, to amend title 38, United States Code, to establish the position of Director of Physician Assistant Services within the office of the Under Secretary of Veterans Affairs for health, S. 1204, to amend the Department of Veterans Affairs Health Care Programs Enhancement Act of 2001 to require the provision of chiropractic care and services to veterans at all Department of Veterans Affairs medical centers, S. 1237, to amend title 38, United States Code, to expand the grant program for homeless veterans with special needs to include male homeless veterans with minor dependents and to establish a grant program for reintegration of homeless women veterans and homeless veterans with children, S. 1302, to provide for the introduction of pay-for-performance compensation mechanisms into contracts of the Department of Veterans Affairs with community-based outpatient clinics for the provisions of health care services, S. 1394, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to acknowledge the receipt of medical, disability, and pension claims and other communications submitted by claimants, S. 1427, to amend title 38, United States Code, to establish a Hospital Quality Report Card Initiative to report on health care quality in Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Centers, S. 1429, to establish a commission on veterans and members of the Armed Forces with post traumatic stress disorder, traumatic brain injury, or other mental health disorders, to enhance the capacity of mental health care providers to assist such veterans and members, to ensure such veterans are not discriminated against, S. 1444, to amend title 38, United States Code, to clarify the meaning of "combat with the enemy" for purposes of service-connection of disabilities, S. 1467, to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide coverage under Traumatic Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance for adverse reactions to vaccinations administered by the Department of Defense, S. 1483, to designate the Department of Veterans Affairs outpatient clinic in Alexandria, Minnesota, as the "Max J. Beilke Department of Veterans Affairs Outpatient Clinic", S. 1518, to amend title 38, United States Code, to furnish hospital care, medical services, and nursing home care to veterans who were stationed at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, while the water was contaminated at Camp Lejeune, S. 1531, to amend title 38, United States Code, to establish within the Department of Veterans Affairs the position of Assistant Secretary for Acquisition, Logistics, and Construction, S. 1547, to amend title 38, United States Code, and the United States Housing Act of 1937 to enhance and expand the assistance provided by the Department of Vet-

erans Affairs and the Department of Housing and Urban Development to homeless veterans and veterans at risk of homelessness, S. 1556, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to permit facilities of the Department of Veterans Affairs to be designated as voter registration agencies, S. 1607, to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for certain rights and benefits for persons who are absent from positions of employment to receive medical treatment for service-connected disabilities, and S. 1668, to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for the inclusion of certain active duty service in the reserve components as qualifying service for purposes of Post-9/11 Educational Assistance Program, and any pending calendar business.

SR-418

9:45 a.m.

Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings to examine the costs and benefits for energy consumers and energy prices associated with the allocation of greenhouse gas emission allowances.

SD-366

10 a.m.

Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine effective strategies for preventing health care fraud.

SD-226

2 p.m.

Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Jane Branstetter Stranch, of Tennessee, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Sixth Circuit, and Benjamin B. Tucker, of New York, to be Deputy Director for State, Local, and Tribal Affairs, Office of National Drug Control Policy.

SD-226

## OCTOBER 22

10 a.m.

Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), focusing on a strategic concept for transatlantic security.

SD-419

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the past, present, and future of policy czars.

SD-342

2:30 p.m.

Intelligence

To hold closed hearings to consider certain intelligence matters.

S-407, Capitol

## OCTOBER 28

2:30 p.m.

Commerce, Science, and Transportation

To hold hearings to examine combating distracted driving, focusing on managing behavioral and technological risks.

SR-253

## NOVEMBER 5

10 a.m.

Veterans' Affairs

To hold hearings to examine Veterans' Affairs and Indian Health Service cooperation.

SR-418